CITY HILIGHTS

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BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI

Change of guard, finally?

Top leadership reportedly asks Siddaramaiah to step down as CM, offers RS seat, likely to resign soon; DKS frontrunner for top post

NEW DELHI

Karnataka may be headed for its biggest political reset since the 2023 Assembly elections, with reports claiming Siddaramaiah has been asked by the party high command to step down as the Chief Minister, move to Delhi as Rajya Sabha member, and take up a larger national role ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

The dramatic behind-the-scene push unfolded through nearly seven-hour meeting in Delhi on Tuesday, even as senior Congress leaders publicly denied any discussion on change of guard and insisted that talks were restricted to the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Council elections.

But behind the official denials, sources described intense negotiations, persuasion attempts and a carefully crafted political offer aimed at convincing the veteran leader to vacate the CM seat without triggering open rebellion in the party state unit.

As per sources, Siddaramaiah was told by the Congress leadership that the party now needed him in Delhi as one of its most prominent OBC faces, particularly at a time when Rahul Gandhi has aggressively sharpened the Congress's social justice and caste census pitch nationwide. "He was told that he is a major OBC face and the party wants him to play a much bigger role nationally in the run-up to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," as per sources.

The leadership assured Siddaramaiah that "all other things and his issues will be taken care of" if he agreed to move to Delhi through the Rajya Sabha route, sources added. The proposal, however, has not yet received Siddaramaiah's approval.

Cautious move!

Sources said the Congress leadership wants to proceed cautiously to avoid factional unrest, as Siddaramaiah continues to command strong support among MLAs, particularly from backward classes, Dalits and minorities, who view him as the party's most influential mass leader.

Siddu seeks more time?

Sources said Siddaramaiah did not give a definitive answer during the meetings and instead sought more time. Soon after returning from Delhi, the CM reportedly went into a huddle with close ministers and trusted aides as consultations over the Congress proposal intensified.

Inside the marathon meetings

The series of meetings stretched for almost seven hours and involved multiple rounds. One key one-on-one interaction reportedly included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, where Siddaramaiah was directly told that the party wanted him to end his tenure as CM and shift to a larger organisational role at the Centre. Another broader meeting at the Congress headquarters was attended by Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, KC Venugopal and Karnataka incharge Randeep Surjewala.

Cong denies change of guard

Speaking after the meeting, KC Venugopal dismissed reports of a Karnataka leadership reshuffle.

Siddu set to resign?

Siddaramaiah is expected to resign on Thursday or Friday, as per sources. However, he is yet to be convinced about a Rajya Sabha nomination and is currently in a huddle with close ministers. Shivakumar is likely to be the new CM, sources added.

RS polls add pressure?

The timing of the meeting is important as nominations for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls are expected to begin soon. Karnataka is set to elect 4 RS members, with Cong expected to win 3 seats based on current Assembly strength. However, the party appears to be moving cautiously, with Siddaramaiah yet to give any final approval on Delhi move.

DKS at centerstage

The latest developments have once again brought DK Shivakumar to the centre of Karnataka politics. For nearly two years, supporters of Shivakumar have maintained that a power-sharing understanding existed when the Congress formed the government in 2023, with Siddaramaiah taking over first and Shivakumar expected to eventually succeed him. The discussions intensified again after the Siddaramaiah govt completed around half of its tenure earlier this month.

Congress' 2029 calculation

The Congress's outreach to Siddaramaiah also reflects its broader political recalibration ahead of 2029. Rahul's repeated focus on OBC politics and social justice has increasingly shaped the Congress's national messaging.

Panel to study 'unnatural demographic shifts'

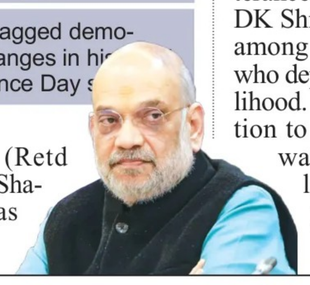
NEW DELHI

The Union government has moved to institutionalise a nationwide review of 'unnatural demographic shifts' linked to illegal immigration and other causes, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announcing the formation of a high-level committee tasked with studying population changes that the Centre says could impact national security, sovereignty, and social stability.

In an X post, he said infiltration and other factors contributing to "unnatural demographic change" pose a serious challenge to both the present and future of the nation. The panel would be headed by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd). It will also include Census Commissioner, Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd IAS), Balaji Srivastava (Retd IPS) and Dr Shamika Ravi as members.

Panel and its role

- Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar will head the panel with five other members.
- The panel will analyse abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities.
- It will recommend planned, time-bound solutions.
- The panel has been given a deadline of one year to submit the report.
- Modi first flagged demographic changes in hi… Independence Day s…



'Reject Karnataka's DPR for Mekedatu Project'

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday expressed surprise over the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the CWC entertaining Karnataka's proposal for the Mekedatu Project, without considering Tamil Nadu's plea.

He also requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to instruct officials concerned to reject the DPR prepared by Karnataka, as it contravened the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and also the Supreme Court judgment. Also, PM should advise the Karnataka government not to take up any new project without getting the concurrence of co-basin states and not to violate the apex court judgment, he said.

In a letter to the PM, Vijay said the announcement for the 'Bhoomi Puja' of the Mekedatu reservoir across Cauvery river and utterances of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar have caused a lot of concern among the lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu, who depend on the Cauvery river for their livelihood. "You may be well aware that a solution to the sensitive Cauvery water dispute was obtained after a long legal battle, lasting about three decades, and the judgment dated February 16, 2018, is under implementation," he said.

IPL 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) triumphed over Gujarat Titans (GT) in the IPL 2026 Qualifier 1, clinching their spot in the finals, at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

Polls to 7 Council seats in K'taka, 9 in Bihar on June 18

BENGALURU: The Election Commission on Tuesday announced the schedule for the biennial polls to nine seats of the Bihar Legislative Council and seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council.

Schedule

- Issue of poll notification: June 1
- Last date for filing nominations: June 8
- Scrutiny of nominations: June 9
- Last date for withdrawal of nominations: June 11
- Voting: June 18
- Counting of votes: June 18

In Karnataka, the term of BK Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed, Govinda Raju, N Nagaraju (MTB), Pratap Simha Nayak K, Thippanappa, and Sunil Valyapur will end on June 30.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

GUARANTEE HABBA

Stepping into the 4th year

Gruha Lakshmi

₹2,000 per month to woman head of the family

Over the past three years, Guarantee Sarkara, through the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, has empowered women heads of families with ₹2,000 every month, enabling them to support household needs, start small businesses, and move towards financial independence

₹69,783 Crore
Direct financial assistance has been transferred to women heads of families, strengthening economic security across households

1.24 Crore Women
are benefiting under the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, helping build stronger and more secure futures for their families

Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Shakthi · Anna Bhagya · Gruha Jyothi · Yuva Nidhi

Scan the QR Code to Witness the Impact of Gruha Lakshmi

Hon'ble Minister Smt. Lakshmi Hebbalkar welcoming Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah during the inauguration ceremony of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme

CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.

karnataka information

QUICK READ

Transport wage talks postponed to June 10

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Conciliation talks between transport workers' unions and management representatives of Karnataka's state-run transport corporations ended without a breakthrough, forcing the Labour Commissioner to defer discussions to June 10. The meeting followed an earlier round on May 18 that had also remained inconclusive. Managing directors of KSRTC, BMTC, KKRTC and NWKRTC attended on behalf of the management, while union leaders represented employees. The unions reiterated their demand for wage revision with effect from January 1, 2024, retention of the four-year settlement cycle, a higher wage increase than the proposed 12.5 per cent, and clearance of arrears.

23 arrested in IPL betting crackdown by CCB police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested 23 people for their alleged involvement in illegal gambling and betting activities linked to the IPL T20 cricket tournament. The arrests were made during simultaneous raids conducted by the Special Investigation Team of the Bengaluru City CCB across multiple police station jurisdictions in the city. Police registered 17 separate cricket betting cases during the operation. Authorities seized seven mobile phones worth ₹1.10 lakh, cash amounting to ₹1,06,433, and betting chips valued at ₹13.37 crore. The total value of seized property is estimated at ₹13.39 crore. Further investigation is underway to identify the masterminds behind the betting network.

Christian Mahasabha seeks repeal of anti-conversion law

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The All India Christian Mahasabha has urged the Karnataka government to withdraw the Prohibition of Conversion Act, alleging that it is being misused against members of the Christian community. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Mahasabha National President S. Prajwalswamy claimed that the legislation was affecting social harmony and was being used to target Christian prayer meetings and priests. He alleged that women, Dalit and Adivasi Christians were facing harassment and attacks. Criticising the Congress-led government for not repealing the law, he demanded protection of religious freedom and equal justice for all communities in the state.

June mayhem: School reopening set to worsen traffic around dug-up CBD roads

Students return as civic works threaten gridlock across Bengaluru roads

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's central business district is bracing for severe traffic congestion as schools and colleges prepare to reopen in June while major road excavation and sewage pipeline replacement works continue across key stretches.

Commuters, parents and students are expected to bear the brunt of the disruption, with ongoing infrastructure projects on major roads such as Richmond Road and Lavelle Road likely to trigger long delays and peak-hour bottlenecks in some of the city's busiest corridors.

One of the most significant traffic choke points is expected near Lavelle Road, where the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has undertaken sewage pipeline replacement work on the stretch leading towards Richmond Road. Vehicular movement has already been restricted as underground drainage infrastructure is being upgraded.

According to BWSSB officials, work along the roadside has been completed and crews have now moved to replacing ageing pipelines beneath the carriageway. Engineers estimate that the project will require another six weeks for completion.

The timing of the work has become a major concern for residents. The area is surrounded by several prominent schools and colleges, making it a crucial route for thousands of students travelling daily. With educational institutions reopening after the summer break, traffic volumes are expected to rise sharply.

Another major excavation is under way on Richmond Road near HDFC Bank, where nearly 400 metres of roadway has been dug up for sewer infrastructure upgrades. BWSSB officials said the project is expected to continue for around 60 days. Owing to the heavy traffic density in the central business district, contractors have been permitted to carry out work primarily during night hours.

However, the presence of multiple schools and colleges directly opposite the work zone is likely to complicate traffic movement. School buses, private vehicles and public transport services will have to navigate narrowed road space and diversions.

Beyond these arterial roads, civic works are also under way in Shantinagar, Langford Road and Kamaraj Road. Authorities have announced alternative traffic arrangements, but motorists fear that simultaneous projects across multiple locations will push vehicles onto smaller residential roads, creating congestion in neighbourhoods not designed for heavy traffic.

Shivajinagar MLA N A Haris said more than 2.5 lakh students commute through central Bengaluru every day, covering educational clusters around Richmond Road, Residency Road, Vittal Mallya Road, Shantinagar and Langford Road.

"I understand there will be traffic chaos due to the high concentration of schools in the area. However, these sewage pipe changes are important and unavoidable for the larger good," Haris said.

With school reopening just days away, commuters can expect challenging journeys as the city attempts to balance critical infrastructure upgrades with rising traffic demand.

Money dispute ends in murder, auto driver buried near lake

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 25-year-old auto driver was allegedly murdered by his friends over a financial dispute and buried in a deserted area near Ramasandra Lake in Kumbalagodu on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The deceased has been identified as N. Rakshit, a resident of Udaya Layout in Tavarekere. Police have arrested one accused, Mohin Pasha, while efforts are on to trace another suspect, Hasan, who is believed to have been involved in the crime.

According to police, Rakshit, who drove a passenger auto-rickshaw, had lent money to Mohin Pasha, a resident of Kambipur. On May 24, Rakshit left home around 6 pm after informing his family that he was going to collect the money. However, he did not return.

Concerned over his disappearance, Rakshit's mother visited Kambipur on May 25 and questioned Mohin Pasha about her son's whereabouts. During interrogation, Mohin allegedly confessed that he and another associate had quarrelled with Rakshit over the financial issue.

Police said the accused allegedly attacked Rakshit by smashing stones on his head, killing him on the spot. They then buried the body near Ramasandra Lake in an attempt to conceal the crime and abandoned his auto-rickshaw near Gnanabharathi to mislead investigators.

Based on a complaint lodged by Rakshit's mother, Kumbalagodu police registered a case and launched an investigation. During questioning, Mohin Pasha reportedly led police to the burial site.

The body was subsequently exhumed in the presence of officials and sent for postmortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. Police said evidence collected from the scene and the accused's statement helped establish the sequence of events.

Investigators are continuing their search for Hasan, who remains absconding. Police are also examining the circumstances leading to the dispute and verifying whether others were involved in the crime.

Fuel price surge boosts Karnataka revenues as calls grow for VAT cut

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Mohandas Pai joins VAT debate

Former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai criticised the state government for benefiting from higher fuel prices while simultaneously blaming the Centre. "At least reduce VAT on the ₹7.5 increase and continue your political protest," Pai said, adding to calls for immediate tax relief for consumers.

Rising fuel prices are generating a significant revenue windfall for Karnataka, but growing public and political pressure to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel is placing the state government in a difficult position.

Despite demands from opposition parties, industry representatives and consumer groups, the Siddaramaiah government is unlikely to announce any immediate reduction in fuel taxes, citing fiscal constraints and increasing expenditure commitments.

According to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), Karnataka currently levies 29.84 per cent sales tax on petrol and 21.17 per cent on diesel. The state follows an ad valorem taxation system, under which VAT is calculated as a percentage of the fuel's base price, including dealer margins and central excise duty. As fuel prices rise, state tax collections increase automatically.

Officials estimate that the recent increase in fuel prices and corresponding tax collections could generate an additional ₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore annually for the state exchequer.

Finance department sources said the government is reluctant to forgo this revenue at a time when it faces mounting financial obligations. Apart from slowing revenue growth, the state is also shouldering an annual expenditure of around ₹51,000 crore on its flagship guarantee schemes.

Officials pointed out that taxes on fuel and liquor continue to be among the most important sources of revenue for states, alongside GST compensation and tax devolution from the Centre.

While Karnataka's fuel taxes have drawn criticism, retail fuel prices in the state remain lower than in several others. Telangana imposes VAT of 35.2 per cent on petrol and 27 per cent on diesel, among the highest in the country. Kerala levies more than 30 per cent sales tax along with additional cess and surcharge components. Tamil Nadu follows a hybrid taxation structure that combines a percentage-based levy with a fixed per-litre charge.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri said the state government faces a difficult balancing act between public expectations and financial realities.

"The state already faces a financial crunch. At the same time, the government would like people to believe that the responsibility for providing relief lies primarily with the Centre," he said.

The issue has increasingly become a political flashpoint. Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka recently urged the government to reduce VAT, arguing that rising fuel prices were placing an additional burden on middle-class families and farmers.

Industry bodies have also weighed in. Some members of the state Dealers' Association have suggested that the Centre direct states to temporarily cap VAT at five per cent for three to six months to protect consumers from further price shocks.

Tata Power Bid Challenges Karnataka ESCOM Monopoly

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A proposal by Tata Power to enter Karnataka's electricity distribution sector could pave the way for competition in a space long dominated by state-run Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs), potentially transforming how power is supplied and priced across the state.

Tata Power has applied to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) for a licence to distribute electricity in areas currently served by government-owned utilities. The move has triggered strong opposition from employee unions, which fear privatisation of the sector and possible impacts on existing public utilities.

The Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Union has warned of statewide protests if the application is approved.

According to a public notice issued in connection with the application, Tata Power plans to operate in 15 districts spread across four ESCOM jurisdictions. These include Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Chitradurga under BESCOM; Mysuru, Hassan and Chamarajanagar under CESCOM; Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada under HESCOM; and Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Shivamogga under MESCOM.

The company is expected to focus primarily on urban centres, including city corporations and municipal areas.

Energy sector experts said the proposal could mark a major shift in Karnataka's power sector by introducing consumer choice. Under the existing system, consumers are tied to a single distribution company based on their location. If multiple distributors are allowed to operate in the same area, consumers could potentially select their electricity supplier without requiring changes to the transmission infrastructure already connected to their homes and businesses.

Independent analysts have largely welcomed the development, arguing that competition could improve service standards, reduce outages and encourage greater operational efficiency.

Tata Power already distributes electricity in cities such as Mumbai and parts of Delhi, Ajmer and Odisha. Industry observers note that its distribution operations have reported lower technical and commercial losses compared to many state-run utilities.

Students must learn values, not focus only on marks: Nirmalanandanath Swamiji

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Students should not restrict themselves to scoring high marks alone but must also cultivate moral values and respect for elders, parents and teachers, said Dr Nirmalanandanath Swamiji.

He was speaking at a programme organised to mark the 119th birth anniversary of Sri Shivakumar Swamiji and the 81st birth anniversary of Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji.

Addressing students who were honoured for securing top marks in the SSLC and II PUC annual examinations, the seer said academic achievement alone was not enough for holistic development.

"Students should not be limited to scoring marks. Alongside academics, they must receive moral education and give importance to respecting elders, parents and teachers," he said.

Dr Nirmalanandanath Swamiji noted that children should grow into responsible citizens and become a source of strength for the nation through their achievements. He also cautioned that distractions and temptations in modern society were affecting the success and growth of young people.

Urging parents to play an active role in shaping their children's future, he said education and values must go hand in hand. "Parents should guide their children on the right path and help them build a bright future. The future of children is largely in the hands of their parents," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Siddalinga Swamiji stressed that talent alone was insufficient and that students should develop human values and ethical principles.

MLA S T Somashekhar said the government had introduced several initiatives to support the educational progress of students studying in government schools. He highlighted the importance of encouraging talented students from economically weaker sections.

Somashekhar recalled that the culture of providing education and food to poor students at Siddaganga Mutt and Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt had inspired him deeply.

State launches intensive school inspections ahead of reopening

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a statewide inspection drive to assess school preparedness, infrastructure, enrolment and learning standards ahead of the 2026-27 academic year.

In a circular issued on Monday, the Commissioner of School Education directed officials to conduct surprise visits and review teaching-learning readiness before schools reopen on June 1.

District- and taluk-level teams led by deputy directors, block education officers and other officials will carry out inspections throughout the academic year. Special attention will be given to schools identified as lagging in learning outcomes.

Officials have been instructed to assess student enrolment and attendance, classroom readiness, bridge course implementation, incentive schemes and safety measures, particularly in view of recent heavy rains.

Each inspection team will visit three schools daily — two primary schools and one secondary school — based on route maps prepared at the district and taluk levels.

Schools recording poor academic progress will be placed under continued monitoring and provided remedial support to improve performance.

The department has also directed schools to complete all cleaning and repair works before reopening. Special focus has been placed on buildings affected by rain damage, fallen trees and electrical hazards.

Schools have been instructed to ensure the availability of safe drinking water, functional toilets and adequate infrastructure to provide a safe learning environment for students when classes resume.

BURDEN FOR CONSUMERS

Rising Wage Costs Trigger Steep Menu Price Hike Warnings

CH NEWS. BENGALURU

Dining out in Bengaluru could soon become significantly more expensive, with hotel and restaurant associations warning that menu prices may rise by as much as 60 per cent in the coming months due to higher labour costs and increasing input prices.

The warning comes as the Karnataka government considers revising minimum wages for workers, a move that hospitality industry representatives say will sharply increase operating expenses for eateries across the state.

From neighbourhood darshinis and fast-food outlets to mid-range restaurants and family dining establishments, businesses are preparing for higher expenditure that is likely to be passed on to customers.

According to the Karnataka State Hotels' Association (KSHA), popular dishes could witness substantial price increases if the proposed wage revisions are implemented. Association president G.K. Shetty said the price of a masala dosa could rise from around ₹80 to ₹150, while a vegetarian meal currently costing ₹150-200 may increase to ₹250-300. Non-vegetarian dishes are also expected to become costlier.

A plate of chicken biryani, which now costs between ₹300 and ₹350 at many establishments, could approach the ₹500 mark. Even basic breakfast items may not be spared, with a plate of idli potentially increasing from around ₹50 to over ₹80.

The hospitality sector in Karnataka comprises nearly 60,000 hotels and restaurants, of which around 15,000 are members of the KSHA.

Shetty said the industry had requested the government to implement wage increases in phases to ease the financial burden on businesses.

Explaining the impact, he noted that the revised minimum wage for an unskilled worker in Bengaluru could exceed ₹23,000 per month. Once statutory contributions such as Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) are added, along with food, accommodation and uniforms, the total monthly expenditure per employee could reach nearly ₹36,000.

He further claimed that Karnataka's hospitality sector already faces higher labour costs compared to neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

"Any hotel that follows government directives and operates transparently will eventually have to increase prices in stages over the coming months," he said.

QUICK READ

Guest lecturer posts open in Gadag district

GADAG

The Principal of Kanaginahala Morarji Desai Residential School has invited applications from eligible candidates for Guest Lecturer and Guest Teacher posts for the academic year 2026-27 on merit cum demo basis. Applications are invited for six lecturer posts in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Kannada and English, along with two teacher posts in Kannada and English. Interested candidates must apply personally to the school before June 2. The selection will be based on merit and demo performance. The demo schedule will be announced later by the principal through official notice.

Gangavathi KDP meeting scheduled on May 29

KOPPAL

The first quarter Taluka Level KDP meeting for Gangavathi constituency will be held on May 29 at 10 am in J H Patel Hall of Koppal Zilla Panchayat. Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy will preside over the meeting. Officials will review progress of various government departments and discuss development works for the year 2026-27. Taluka level officers have been directed to attend with progress reports related to Irakalgad hobli under Gangavathi constituency. Officials unable to attend due to unavoidable reasons must obtain prior permission from the MLA.

Land dispute turns violent in Dharwad

DHARWAD

Violence broke out between two groups over a land dispute near Triple IIT on the outskirts of Dharwad. A bodyguard of a real estate businessman shot a 24-year-old youth Vitthal Walikar in the leg. He has been admitted to a private hospital and is undergoing treatment. Police said around eight rounds were fired during the clash. The land measuring three acres was planned for residential plots. Locals opposed development and demanded proper measurement of the property. Businessman claimed court had already ruled in their favour. The case is under Vidyagiri police station jurisdiction as investigation continues.

Minister H. K. Patil launches road works in Gadag city

Minister stated that contractors must ensure standards, no compromise, enabling smooth long-term public movement for city development

GADAG

State Law and Justice Minister H. K. Patil performed bhoomi puja and launched road development and CC road construction works worth ₹1 crore near Kalasapur Road Indian Bank in Ward numbers 34 and 35 in Gadag city on Tuesday.

He said strong and good quality roads are essential for city development. He instructed contractors to ensure high quality work and warned no compromise in standards. Roads should support smooth public movement for many years. He directed officials and contractors to complete project within four months and start immediately without delay. Government committed to development and assured another ₹1 crore grant next phase based on needs. He also announced ₹5 lakh for gym equipment for public park and asked park to be clean and attractive encouraging healthy activities.

He also said infrastructure development is being prioritised to respond to local demands and promised continued support for civic improvements. Under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme 2025-26, the same ₹1 crore road works were launched in Kurahatti town with instruction to complete within four months ensuring quality monitoring at every stage. The minister also inaugurated a newly constructed Anganwadi building and said Anganwadis are first schools of children's learning and development. He stressed need to upgrade them into quality education centres with proper facilities.

Urban Development Authority Chairman Akbar Saab Babarji, District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman B. B. Asuti and several local leaders and residents attended the programme. They welcomed the development works and appreciated the government's focus on urban infrastructure and public welfare projects in Gadag city for better living conditions and long term civic development. Residents expressed satisfaction saying new road works and civic improvements will improve mobility safety and quality of life in the area supporting long term development across the region under government initiative ongoing.

The minister said the government will continue focusing on urban development and infrastructure improvement across Gadag city and assured more funds will be allocated based on public needs in future phases. The works aim to improve connectivity and overall quality of life for residents across the region further.

Vatal warns massive protest over Belagavi issue

Vatal said Belagavi belongs to Karnataka, urging leaders to respect Kannadigas' sentiments, with activists continuing struggle until demands from North and Kalyana Karnataka are met.

BELAGAVI

Senior Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj warned that a major protest would begin if the Belagavi City Corporation failed to declare Belagavi an integral part of Karnataka and implement the Mahajan Report before June 2.

Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the replica of the Halmidi inscription near the District Collector's office, he said Kannada organisations would meet in Bengaluru on June 4 and call for an Akhand Karnataka bandh if no action was taken by the deadline.

Vatal said Belagavi belongs to Karnataka and leaders in power should clearly understand the feelings of Kannadigas.

He added that activists from North Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka would join the movement and continue the struggle until their demands were fulfilled.

During the programme, activists performed special rituals using milk and water collected from seven rivers. Women supporters carried pots on their heads and poured the water over the inscription replica before prayers were held.

Later, protesters attempted to march towards the City Corporation office. Police stopped them near Sangolli Rayanna Circle after some activists staged a road protest and argued with officers. As tensions increased, police took Vatal Nagaraj, S. R. Govindu and several supporters into custody.

Vatal also urged the state government to take a clear stand on the issue and warned that stronger protests would continue across Karnataka if the demands were ignored.

Governor opens engineering college, promotes value education

BELAGAVI

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated AGM Engineering College at Chikkodi in Belagavi district in the presence of Shri 108th Gunadharanandi Muni Maharaja and several dignitaries. He also participated in the land purification ceremony for the installation of the world's tallest Lord Parshwanath statue and the consecration ceremony of Shri Saraswati Murthy.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said the programme marked a new beginning in education, culture, service, technological development and nation building. He praised Acharya Shri Gunadharanandi Ji Maharaj for spreading messages of peace, compassion, sacrifice and social awareness through his life and teachings.

The Governor said the engineering college was established on sacred land connected with spiritual values and human welfare. He expressed confidence that the institution would provide education along with ethics, discipline, personality development and career growth for students from different backgrounds.

He said the college was committed to supporting economically weaker students by offering technical education at affordable fees and free education for orphans and needy children. According to him, such efforts would help students become independent and contribute positively to society and the nation.

Highlighting the importance of value based education, the Governor said Indian culture has always promoted the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, meaning the world is one family. He stressed that education should create responsible citizens with moral values instead of focusing only on employment opportunities.

The Governor also praised the Jain community for its contributions to education, social service, morality and national development. Referring to the proposed 151 foot monolithic statue of Lord Parshwanath at Shri Gundhar Teertha Shamnewadi near Nez Cross, he said the project would spread the global message of peace, non violence, compassion and coexistence. BJP National Organisation General Secretary B L Santosh and many other dignitaries attended the programme.

During the event, speakers highlighted the importance of combining science with Indian traditions through the National Education Policy. They said educational institutions should inspire students to respect cultural heritage while developing skills, leadership qualities and responsibility.

Mandali said Congress fulfilled promises, reduced unemployment, attracted investments, and boosted jobs through new industrial and GCC policies

Congress highlights Karnataka growth and welfare achievements

GADAG

Congress leaders in Gadag praised the Karnataka government for completing three years in power and claimed that welfare schemes and development projects had transformed the state into a national model. District Campaign Committee President Ashok Mandali said Karnataka had reached the top position in GSDP growth and per capita income while securing second place in tax collection and foreign investment. He stated that more than Rs 1.31 lakh crore had been directly transferred to people through guarantee schemes benefiting crores of families across the state.

Mandali said the Congress government had fulfilled many promises made during the 2023 Assembly elections and introduced programmes focused on women farmers youth and workers. According to him Karnataka recorded lower unemployment levels compared to the national average and attracted major industrial investments worth several lakh crore rupees creating thousands of jobs in different districts. He added that new Global Capability Center policies and industrial projects were helping Karnataka emerge as a leading employment destination in the country.

He highlighted welfare schemes including Gruha Jyothi Gruha Lakshmi Shakti Anna Bhagya and Yuva Nidhi and said they had improved the financial condition of poor families. The government also introduced digital land record reforms and property ownership drives to improve transparency and help citizens secure legal ownership documents.

Mandali said new projects including KHIR City near Bengaluru mega textile parks and large industrial investments would create lakhs of jobs in coming years. He added that the government had focused on women empowerment education social justice and rural development while expanding infrastructure healthcare and employment opportunities across Karnataka. He claimed the state had become one of the fastest growing regions in India because of people friendly policies and large scale welfare programmes.

Mandali further said the government had strengthened irrigation projects, improved drinking water facilities, upgraded schools and hospitals and supported farmers through compensation and crop insurance schemes. He stated that investments outside Bengaluru were encouraging balanced regional development and helping North Karnataka districts receive better industries, infrastructure and employment opportunities for local youth and women there.

CEO inspects Honnavar offices and projects work

KARWAR

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi made a surprise visit to Honnavar Taluk on Tuesday and inspected various government offices to review administration and service delivery.

He gave suggestions on register maintenance, file management and ensured good administration practices in the Taluk Panchayat office.

Later he visited Chandavara Gram Panchayat and inspected the solid waste management unit and plastic management system and issued necessary instructions.

He also visited the Karki drinking water project and directed officials to complete the work immediately and reviewed the proposed sewage treatment plant site in Karki. Executive officers assistant director GR assistant engineer RWS PRED officials and technical coordinator were present during the inspection visit.

Hyderabad tourist drowns at Om Beach in Gokarna

KARWAR

A young tourist from Hyderabad drowned while swimming in the sea at Om Beach in Gokarna. He had come to Gokarna with four friends for a holiday trip and went to Om Beach around 7 pm. While enjoying the waves, he entered deeper water and was caught by strong waves and a whirlpool. Friends and locals tried to rescue him and brought him to shore quickly, after which he was taken to a hospital. Doctors declared him dead and police registered a case, warning tourists about dangerous sea conditions at Om Beach. Authorities urged tourists to avoid entering deep waters and to follow safety warnings issued at coastal beaches. Police in Gokarna are investigating the incident and have sent the body for postmortem examination at Kumta district hospital.

The sea at Om Beach is known for strong waves and sudden whirlpools which have caused several accidents in the past.

New revenue villages announced in Hangal taluk

HANGAL

MLA Srinivasa Mane said that in Hangal taluk, 11 new revenue villages have been created and documents have been prepared to form 140 sub villages on government and private lands, giving ownership rights to long settled families.

Krishna Bhairegowda inaugurated new sub villages in Makaravalli village including Bhairegowda Nagar and Siddarameshwar colony, where many families who had lived for decades without official recognition are now being given revenue identity and legal security. Officials said several settlements like Tanda, Gollarhatti, Hadi, Doddi, Mazare, Camp and Colony earlier had no revenue numbers or separate records, causing difficulties for residents in accessing basic government services. With changes in the revenue department under Krishna Bhairegowda, the long pending issue has been resolved and many households have received title deeds and official recognition.

Officials added that a total of 151 inhabited areas in Hangal taluk are being considered for conversion into revenue villages and sub village status under government recognition.

Tehsildar Renuka S, Karnataka Milk Federation director Chandrappa, KPCC members, block Congress leaders and other officials attended the programme where leaders said the initiative will bring long term relief to families by ensuring land rights, better governance and access to welfare schemes, and they appreciated the government effort to formalize long standing settlements across the taluk and improve rural administration supporting inclusive development and transparent revenue mapping in the region.

VECTOR DISEASE ALERT

DENGUE PREVENTION MEASURES URGED ACROSS GADAG

GADAG

District Collector CN Sridhar has called for strong precautionary measures to prevent dengue, malaria and chikungunya in the district and directed all departments to work together to maintain cleanliness and control mosquito breeding.

He was speaking at the National Dengue Day and district inter departmental coordination meeting held at the District Collector office hall where officials reviewed health safety steps and awareness programmes to stop the spread of vector borne diseases in both urban and rural areas across Gadag district.

Health officials informed that from January to April 2026 the district recorded malaria dengue and chikungunya cases after extensive testing and surveillance and urged citizens to cooperate with health workers to eliminate mosquito breeding sites especially stagnant water in residential and public areas.

The District Collector instructed all municipal and health authorities to take immediate action on mosquito control including cleaning of drains removal of stagnant water and proper disposal of solid waste materials such as tyres coconut shells bottles and other containers that can collect rainwater and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and also directed awareness programmes in schools bus stands and rural areas.

Officials also explained that dengue is transmitted by the bite of infected Aedes aegypti mosquitoes and symptoms usually appear within four to eight days and urged people to seek immediate medical care if fever persists. They said there is no specific medicine for dengue and treatment is based on symptoms and all government hospitals provide testing and care facilities for patients.

Awareness programmes are being conducted in schools and villages and posters on dengue prevention were released during the meeting to educate the public.

Annapurna Shettar demonstrated mosquito life cycle and explained how stagnant water leads to breeding and how larvivorous fish can help control larvae.

District health officials including Dr SS Neelagunda and other members said that public cooperation proper sanitation and timely reporting of fever cases are essential to reduce insect borne diseases and appealed to citizens to keep surroundings clean avoid water stagnation and follow health advisories issued by authorities throughout the district for better public health.

QUICK READ

Bhatkal bans liquor during Bakrid festival

CH NEWS, Karwar
In Bhatkala, the District Administration has ordered a complete ban on the sale and transport of liquor during Bakrid festival to maintain law and order. According to the order issued by District Magistrate K. Lakshmipriya, all liquor shops will remain closed from May 28 at 5 am to May 29 at 12 midnight in Bhatkala town under the police station limits. Officials said the decision has been taken to ensure peace and prevent any disturbance during the festival period, and strict action will be ta ken against those violating the prohibition order in the region for public safety.

Road accident claims 2 lives in Hassan

CH NEWS, Hassan
A tragic road accident in Hassan district claimed the lives of a mother and her seven year old son when an auto overturned near Honnavalli Kudige in Alur taluk. They were travelling to obtain a transfer letter for the child's school admission when the driver allegedly drove at high speed and lost control of the vehicle causing it to flip on the road. Priyanka aged 28 and her son Vinith aged 7 died on the spot while auto driver Abbas aged 52 and another boy Sagar aged 13 suffered injuries and were shifted to Alur Taluk Hospital for treatment. Police visited the accident spot conducted inspection and registered a case at Alur police station. They have started investigation into the incident and have urged drivers to follow traffic rules and avoid overspeeding to prevent such tragic accidents on rural roads in future period warning.

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh offers prayers at Chamundi Hills

MYSURU

Bollywood actor and 'Dhurandhar' fame, Ranveer Singh on Tuesday visited the revered Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru and offered special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari, following directions issued by the Karnataka High Court in connection with allegations that he insulted a sacred ritual portrayed in the film Kantara Chapter-1.

Temple sources confirmed that Singh arrived quietly like a common devotee and participated in the rituals without any fanfare. Wearing a mask and avoiding attention, the Bollywood actor reportedly entered the temple premises around 7.15 am through the regular devotees' queue. Before entering the sanctum, he first offered prayers to Lord Ganesha at the temple entrance and later performed special puja to Goddess Chamundeshwari. Sources said the actor spent some time seated inside the temple premises in silent prayer after the rituals.

According to M.J. Roopa, Secretary of the Chamundeshwari Development Authority, Ranveer Singh reached Chamundi Hills around 7.30 am like an ordinary devotee and sat on the right side of the temple while performing the rituals.

Temple authorities also welcomed him ceremonially with a garland during the visit. After offering the Pooja, he left the place without giving any hint to his fans.

The controversy dates back to November 28, 2025, during the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival held in Goa. While speaking at the event, Ranveer Singh allegedly mocked the sacred "Daiva Kola" tradition depicted in Kantara.

According to the complaint, the actor imitated the divine expressions associated with Panjurli/Guliga Daiva — revered spiritual entities worshipped in the coastal regions of Karnataka — in a manner considered offensive and disrespectful. It was alleged that he referred to the sacred spirit as a "ghost," triggering outrage among devotees and followers of the tradition.

Complainants argued that the ritual portrayed in Kantara represents deeply rooted spiritual beliefs and is closely associated with the worship of Goddess Chamundeshwari and regional traditions. They alleged that the actor's remar ks hurt Hindu religious sentiments and insulted long-standing cultural practices. The complaint further stated that such comments made by a celebrity on an international plat form caused anger, emotional distress, resentment among de votees, besides potentially disturbing communal harmony.

FIR, Apology and High Court Direction

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against Ra nveer Singh at the High Grou nds Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Seeking quashing of the FIR, Ranveer Singh later approached the Karnataka High Court.

VVCE to host 24-Hour National Hackathon "FUSION X 1.0"

MYSURU

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering is set to host a 24-hour national-level hackathon titled "FUSION X 1.0" on May 29 and 30, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across the country.

A total of 111 teams have registered for the eve nt so far, with nearly 70 per cent of the participants coming from outside Karnataka. Students from states including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are expected to take part, reflecting the growing national recognition of the institution's academic standards and innovation-driven initiatives. The hackathon aims to provide students with a platform to develop research-oriented and practical solutions to real-world technical challenges. Participants will work continuously for 24 hours, collaborating in tea ms to design innovative projects and demonstrate their technical expertise, creativity and problem-solving abilities. Speaki ng about the initiative, Principal Sadashi ve Gowda said the objective of organizing the national-level hackathon is to encourage creativity, technical excellence and innovation among students. He described the participation of students from various parts of the country as a matter of pride for the institution. Gopala Reddy K, Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is serving as the coordinator of the hackathon.

The inaugural ceremony will be held on May 29 at 10 am at the college sports ground. Mysuru-Kodagu Member of Parliament Ya duveer Krishnadatta Cha maraja Wadiyar will inaugurate the event. President of the Vidyavardhaka Sang ha Gundappa Gowda will preside over the progra mme.

Allegations against officials include delaying khata approvals, aiding land mafia, misusing e-khatas, shifting Panchayat office

Revenue Inspector suspended over land mafia allegations

MYSURU

The Directorate of Municipal Administration has suspended Manjunath, the Revenue Inspector of Rammanahalli Town Panchayat, for allegedly colluding with land mafia elements and issuing e-khatas for government properties in favour of private individuals.

Following complaints from the public, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikanth Reddy sought a report from officials and recommended disciplinary action against Manjunath to the Directorate of Municipal Administration.

Based on this recommendation, Director P. N. Ravindra ordered Manjunath's suspension on May 25, pending a departmental inquiry. The suspension order came into immediate effect.

According to allegations, Rammanahalli Town Panchayat Chief Officer Mahesh and Revenue Inspector Manjunath had been causing hardship to the public by delaying khata approvals on one hand, while on the other allegedly working with land mafia members to issue e-khatas for government properties. It is also alleged that they shifted the entire Panchayat office to another location and operated it like a private establishment. Frustrated residents had submitted written complaints to all concerned authorities. Social activist Snehamayi Krishna had also lodged a complaint with the Regional Commissioner against the alleged irregularities.

Acting on the complaints, officials conducted an inquiry and obtained a report regarding the alleged misconduct of the two officers. The report reportedly found prima facie evidence of irregularities committed by both officials. Based on these findings, the DC Reddy recommended disciplinary action against Chief Officer Mahesh and Revenue Inspector Manjunath.

Since Chief Officer Mahesh falls under the Grade-1 category, the Directorate of Municipal Administration has reportedly forwarded a recommendation to the government for action against him. Meanwhile, Director P. N. Ravindra issued suspension orders against Manjunath.

The order also states that Manjunath's service lien has been transferred with immediate effect, and he has been posted to a vacant First Division Assistant position at the Hassan City Municipal Corporation.

India's first TAVI procedure performed successfully in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Narayana Health in Bengaluru achieved a major milestone in cardiac care by successfully performing India's first Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation for pure aortic regurgitation using a dedicated TAVR device. The procedure was led by Dr. Suraj Narasimhan and marked an important breakthrough for high risk heart patients.

The announcement was made during an event held at Chancery Pavilion in Bengaluru. Doctors explained that aortic valve disease mainly includes stenosis and regurgitation. In regurgitation, the valve fails to close properly and blood flows backward into the heart. This condition is becoming more common among elderly people across the world.

Earlier, pure aortic regurgitation was difficult to treat without open heart surgery because there was no calcified structure to support the artificial valve. The specially designed HANCHOR valve solved this problem and improved the success rate of the procedure from nearly sixty seven percent to about ninety five percent.

Doctors said the devices are manufactured in China and imported through Hong Kong with special approval from government authorities. Narayana Health imported the device for two high risk patients including an eighty year old man and a sixty nine year old patient who could not safely undergo traditional surgery.

The minimally invasive procedure was performed through the femoral artery in the thigh without major surgical cuts.

Both patients recovered well and were discharged within forty eight hours after observation.

Doctors said the treatment cost around fifteen lakh rupees including import charges. Patients thanked the medical team and especially Dr. Suraj Narasimhan for providing advanced treatment and improving their quality of life through successful heart procedures in Bengaluru.

Karnataka leaders honor legacy of H S Doreswamy

BENGALURU

Dr. Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University, Dr. H.S. Doreswamy Memorial Foundation, Mahatma Gandhi Study Centre, Dr. M.S.BCU in association with Gowri Media Trust, Karnataka Gandhi Memorial Fund paid tribute to freedom fighter Late H.S. Doreswamy on Tuesday. The memorial was held to commemorate his memory and to discuss the challenges we face today.

The chief guests of the event were Mrs. Teesta Setalvad, Human Rights Activist from New Delhi, Dinesh Gundurao, Honorable Health Minister, Government of Karnataka, Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Honorable Higher Education Minister, Government of Karnataka, Jignesh Mevani, Youth Activist and Honorable MLAs from Gujarat. Late H.S. Doreswamy was known for his humble, wisdom, and inspiring nature and his dedication and struggle towards fighting for the landless and equal distribution of land to the landless labourers and small tenant farmers.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) undertaken by the Election Commission of India was criticized for its faulty procedure and exclusion of citizens from voting.

FKMO presses Cong to give RS seat to Muslim candidate

BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka Muslim Organisations (FK MO) has urged the Congress party to allocate at least one Rajya Sabha seat to a Muslim candidate from Karnataka in the upcoming elections.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the Federation stated that the tenure of four current Rajya Sabha members from Karnataka is nearing completion and elections for these seats are expected soon. The Congress party is likely to comfortably win three of these seats, it stated and demanded that at least one winning seat be given to a representative from the Muslim community. It appealed to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar to take special interest in the matter.

According to the Federation, out of the 12 Rajya Sa bha members representing Karnataka, only one currently belongs to the Muslim community. It also stated that whi le there were at least two Mu slim Lok Sabha MPs from Congress in the past, Karnataka currently does not have a single Muslim Lok Sabha MP. It further claimed that the number of Lok Sabha tick ets given by Congress to Mu slim candidates has reduced to just one and representation in the Rajya Sabha is also limited to one member.

Federation opposed law, boycotted cattle fairs, demanded removal of unauthorized banners, urging authorities for immediate action

Hassan Muslim Federation backs cattle slaughter ban

HASSAN

The Hassan District Muslim Federation announced that it has decided not to slaughter cattle during Bakrid this year in the district, aiming to promote peace and social harmony among communities.

Speaking at a press conference, leaders said the Karnataka Cattle Slaughter and Traffic king Prohibition Act 2020 is being misused for political gain and they described it as an attack on constitutional and religious rights. The federation stated that until the governme nt withdraws the law community leaders have unanimously decided not to participate in ca ttle slaughter or cattle fairs across Hassan district. They also demanded immediate removal of unauthorised banners placed in localities which they said were creating tension and urged district administration police and municipal authorities to take action.

Leaders present at the press conference included Anshad-e-Palya Yusuf Khan Amir Jan Imran Pasha (lawyer) Naeem Shakir and Suhail and they reiterated that the decision was taken voluntarily to maintain peace and communal harmony in the district and they appealed to the government and citizens to understand their sta nd as a step towards social unity and to avoid misunderstandings or provocative actions duri ng the festival period and they further said that cooperation from all sections is essential for maintaining law and order and peaceful celebrations during Ba krid period this year and also re quested all communities to continue mutual respect and avoid any rumours or misinformation circulation messages online.

Avadhoota Datta Peetham launches Sanskrit education courses

MYSURU

Marking the 84th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, the Avadhoota Datta Peetham in Mysuru, a series of new Sanskrit education courses has been launched in Mysuru on Tuesday.

The programmes have been introduced jointly by the Peetham's key educational wings — SGS Vedanidhi Academy and Masters Institute — in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University. The newly launched courses are open to anyone

SGS VedaNidhi Academy & Masters' Institute
Avadhoota Datta Peetham, Mysore
Inauguration of Sanskrit Courses
• Sanskrit (Diploma)
• Prak- Shastri Sanskrit Primer (PUC)
• Adwaita Vedanta (BA)
• Hinduism Studies (MA)
• Vyakarana (BA)
• Veda Bhashyam (BA)
• Karma Kaanda - Purohitya (BA)
• Sanskrit - MA

interested in learning Sanskrit, scriptures and related traditional subjects. This is a simple six-month or one-year course designed to provide foundational knowledge in spoken Sanskrit, grammar and Indian culture. A two-year pre-university level programme intended for students who have completed Class 10 and above. The course serves as a bridge for those aspiring to pursue B.A. and M.A. degrees in Sanskrit studies. Specialized higher-learning programmes in Advaita Vedanta, Puranic history and Sanskrit grammar have also been introduced for serious scholars.Professional Yoga Course

The yoga programme extends beyond physical postures and includes human anatomy, Ayurveda and modern medical perspectives, making it a comprehensive professional training course. This postgraduate programme is specially designed for individuals aged 40 to 50 years and above who wish to pursue self-knowledge and deeper understanding of Hindu philosophy and traditions. A unique course tailored for Vedic scholars who wish to gain an in-depth understanding of the meanings and interpretations of Vedic mantras. Students enrolled in B.A. and M.A. degree progra mmes can pursue self-study from anywhere, but examinations must be taken at the My suru Ashram campus. However, diploma and certificate course students have been granted special flexibility by the university, enabling them to write examinations online from anywhere in the world through internet-based protocols.

One held for attempting to sell Grey Francolins

MYSURU

The CID Forest Mobile Unit police arrested a man for allegedly attempting to sell two grey francolin birds illegally near the public playground at Rammanahalli on the Mysuru–Mahadevapura Road in Mysuru on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police team rushed to the spot around 10.30 am and found a person carrying a cage containing two grey francolins and allegedly trying to sell them.

The police immediately conducted a raid and arrested one accused, while another person managed to escape from the scene.

The arrested accused has been identified as Shivanna, 50, son of late Karishetty, an agriculturist and residing on Hanchya Road in Rammanahalli of Mysuru taluk.

Police seized two grey francolin birds and a cage in which the birds were being kept illegally.

A case has been registered and further legal action has been initiated against the accused.

MLA D S Arun supports HC bench proposal

MLA invited delegation to Delhi to present the issue directly before central govt authorities for consideration

SHIVAMOGGA

Leaders and lawyers in Shivamogga renewed their demand for establishing a High Court bench in the city during a public meeting held. Speakers said Shivamogga has developed rapidly over the years and is now well connected through roads and communication facilities, making it a suitable place for a regional High Court bench.

MLA D. S. Arun said he would strongly support the proposal at the national level and raise the issue with the Union Law Minister and the Department of Justice. He assured the gathering that he would stand with the people and lawyers in their struggle until the demand is fulfilled. He also invited a delegation from Shivamogga to visit Delhi so the matter could be presented directly before central authorities.

The MLA said Shivamogga is centrally located and covers four nearby districts within a hundred kilometre radius. He added that the number of pending cases in the region meets the required criteria for establishing a High Court bench. He urged people to continue the movement without political differences and work together for success.

Bar Association President Raghavendra Swamy and honorary struggle committee president K. Basappa Gowda explained the progress of the campaign and appealed for united efforts. Several public representatives, lawyers and community leaders attended the meeting and expressed support for the long pending demand. Leaders present at the programme said the bench would help people from nearby districts receive quicker justice without travelling long distances to Bengaluru. They said the movement would continue until demand and establishes the High Court bench in Shivamogga.

QUICK READ

Residential sports schools open fresh selection process

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has announced special admissions for Sports Residential Schools and hostels for the year 2026-27. A special selection process will be held for candidates who could not participate earlier, giving them another opportunity across Karnataka. It includes sports coaching selection and a sports science test conducted by experts. Eligible students studying in Class 7 for 8th admission and PUC candidates up to 18 years can apply. Those who missed earlier selection rounds may also participate in the process.

Chitradurga city to face power cut today

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Due to emergency maintenance work in Chitradurga city and nearby areas, electricity supply will be disrupted on May 27 from 10 am to 6 pm. Areas including IUDP Layout, Saraswati Puram, Government Diploma College, Kote Road, Kamanabava Baran gay, Jogimatti Road, Karuvinakatte Circle, District Hospital, District Panchayat, Science College, Arts College, LIC Office and Taluk Panchayat. The BESCOM Nagar Sub Division Assistant Executive Engineer said the shut down is needed for safety and requested public cooperation during the maintenance period.

Officials said awareness campaigns and door-to-door visits will improve waste segregation, reduce dumping and strengthen governance

District Collector calls for waste management awareness

MANDYA

District Collector Dr Kumar said that scientific disposal of solid waste is the responsibility of every citizen and public awareness is essential. District Urban Development Cell and Municipal Council organized a one day workshop on Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 at Mandya University Hall for municipal councilors and officials.

Dr Kumar said new rules classify waste into green waste dry waste sanitary waste and special waste and citizens must separate waste at source. Local bodies must collect transport and process waste scientifically and segregate recyclables through MRF units while penalties should be imposed for violations. We must change public mindset and create a clean healthy society and officials should use training to educate citizens through demonstrations in wards.

Officials said proper waste management is essential for health and sustainable development and urged all departments to implement rules effectively. P Narasimha Murthy Project Officer explained that waste should be separated into wet dry sanitary and special care waste including batteries bulbs medicines and paint cans and processed scientifically.

Authorities said violations of rules will lead to penalties and stressed that cleanliness improves public health and reduces economic burden on society. District officials police officers engineers and civic workers attended the programme and were urged to implement the rules in all local bodies effectively. Workshop concluded with message that scientific waste management is essential for clean and healthy society in Mandya district.

Experts said public cooperation and strict enforcement are necessary for success of Solid Waste Management programme. Segregation at source reduces pollution and helps recycling units manage materials efficiently in urban and rural areas.

Officials said awareness campaigns and door to door visits will improve public compliance over time. Every household must participate in segregation and proper waste disposal without irresponsible dumping. Such initiatives will strengthen governance and reduce health risks ensuring sustainable development. Training programmes help officials understand rules and implement them effectively in departments. Stakeholders expressed commitment to maintain cleanliness and ensure proper waste management across Mandya district going forward.

Officials urged citizens to follow rules strictly so that Mandya remains clean healthy and environmentally sustainable for future generations.

Officials highlighted that scientific waste management under new rules is a key step towards improving urban living standards in Mandya district. They said that coordinated efforts between local bodies, citizens and government departments are required to ensure effective implementation. Proper segregation, collection and disposal will reduce pollution and protect public health. The initiative is expected to create cleaner surroundings, better hygiene and sustainable development across all towns and municipalities in the district.

"Bengaluru: An Environmentally Dead City"

RASHIDA AAMIR

Bengaluru, once known as "the garden city of India" is now being called "an environmentally dead city" due to the drastic decline of its green cover in the recent decades. Research from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) highlights that the city has lost up to 93% of its original green cover and 60% lake bodies to concrete since 1970. This juxtaposition has happened due to the large-scale cutting down of trees for infrastructure, new transportation, and wider roads.

Joseph Hoover, an environmentalist and wildlife conservative challenges the promises made by new transportation and wider roads in exchange of deforestation, aimed to promote public transport and reduce/control traffic with the statistic that the number of private vehicles has increased tenfold. Bengaluru's private vehicle population has crossed 1.2 crore with the average of 2,100 new vehicles hitting the road everyday.

Bengaluru's upcoming major infrastructure projects include Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd's (BMRCL) Namma Metro Phase 3, set to clear 6,868 trees. And Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), set to clear 32,572 trees. For each tree cut, BMRCL and BSRP have promised to plant 10 saplings. Hoover counterargues with this by saying, "The saplings you plant today, it will take 20-30 years to give us some ecological value.

The existing tree that you cut down, which has been sequestering carbon for all these years and has been giving us oxygen, you can't replace it. When you cut an existing tree, the carbon that is sequestered is released back into the atmosphere." He adds that the alternative of preserving trees by transplanting them has a success rate of only 10%, it fails due to severe root loss and causes irreversible water stress, hormonal imbalances, and a fatal condition known as transplant shock.

"There should be some balance between development and preserving your ecosystem. What are we leaving behind for our future generations?" Hoover draws concern from pollution levels getting higher and Bengaluru's summers getting hotter – India Meteorological Department (IMD) marked the highest temperature in Bengaluru city in 2026 as 36.6%.

Hoover demands we shouldn't wait until "our taps run out of water" to take action and stand up against the government and say 'we have had enough.' Bengaluru has suffered enough, we need to move forward with caution or else in the future we will have the best metropolitan cities but no life left to use them.

Arebhashe festival celebrated in Kodagu

MADIKERI

Madikeri MLA Dr Mantar Gowda inaugurated Arebhashe village festival at Maragodu Gowda Samaj premises and said efforts must continue for learning and development of Arebhashe language. He said Arebhashe culture and Sahitya Akademi programmes are reaching village level and preserving the language will also strengthen Kannada. Children and youth should learn the language without hesitation.

Sadananda Mavaji said academy is publishing books and quarterly Hingara magazine and urged families to read and promote semi language development through reading habits. Speakers said Arebhashe language has grown through associations, Yakshagana, drama and seminars and stressed need to protect culture and encourage speaking in daily life. Former officials and writers said language reflects culture and urged more studies, documentation and promotion of Arebhashe traditions across Kodagu and coastal regions.

Books were released and local achievers were honoured during the event and organisers said unity and cultural pride will help preserve the language for future generations. Many participants including local leaders academicians community heads and cultural activists attended the programme and supported efforts to strengthen Arebhashe language and culture in Kodagu region.

They said language and tradition are closely linked and must be preserved through education cultural programmes and public participation in villages and schools. Organisers said workshops book releases and cultural events will continue and will help younger generation understand the importance of semi language and its heritage. They added that unity among Gowda community members and cooperation from government bodies will ensure survival and growth of Arebhashe language for future generations.

A book titled Rsu and Prime Minister Story was released and several books were donated to Maragodu Gram Panchayat during the programme. The event also honoured landholders and cultural contributors and included prayers and cultural performances by local artists and groups. Speakers said such festivals help protect identity and encourage children to learn language and maintain cultural pride in Kodagu and neighbouring regions. Officials said continued support will be given for similar programmes in schools and villages to promote language preservation.

Deputy Collector highlights digital land records benefits

CHITRADURGA

Deputy District Collector B T Kumaraswamy said that the government's new digital land records system is bringing a quiet revolution through the Bhoo Suraksha software, which is helping citizens access land documents easily at home.

He was speaking at a one day workshop on Importance of Records Preservation Maintenance and Public Records Act 2010 and Rules 2013 organized by District Administration and Karnataka State Gazetteer Department at Zilla Panchayat Hall.

He said the system is digitizing pahani mutation and grant documents by scanning and verifying authenticity so people no longer need to visit offices. Records are now accessible on mobile phones through integrated land technology improving transparency and efficiency.

Officials emphasized that maintenance and preservation of files is essential in government offices, as poor record handling can lead to legal issues, penalties, and repeated objections before the Information Commission. Kumaraswamy noted that many officers are unaware of the Public Records Act and often fail to properly transfer or verify files during postings. He urged all staff, including heads of departments, to take responsibility for proper documentation.

Speakers also highlighted the importance of adopting the e-office system and classifying files as A, B, C, and D for better preservation and transparency. They warned that negligence has recently led to fines and disciplinary action, including a penalty of Rs 25000 in one case, and stressed that proper record keeping protects both administration and employees.

Experts at the workshop shared technical insights on record preservation, digitization, and legal frameworks supporting transparent administration. Dr Gavisiddaiah spoke on importance of files and digitization of records. Dr Jayasimha explained methods of preserving official records. Dr Nelkudri Sadanandappa introduced Public Records Act 2010 and Rules 2013. Narayan Babu explained microfilming techniques for safe storage of documents. District level officers and employees from various departments attended the workshop and were urged to implement the e-office system effectively in all offices to ensure transparency, accountability, and easy access to government records for citizens while strengthening administrative efficiency and protecting officials from legal complications through proper documentation and systematic preservation of records across departments system implementation.

Residents and officials said the digital land record initiative will reduce delays and corruption while improving service delivery in rural and urban areas of Chitradurga district.

Three arrested in Mandya murder case probe

MANDYA

Maddur police have arrested three accused in connection with a murder case that took place on May 19, 2026, after a quarrel at a bar in K. Honnalagere village in Mandya district.

The incident began when Sunil and his friends were drinking at Deepa Bar, where a verbal argument started with Nishanth over a casual remark. Later, Nishanth along with Karthik and Ravi allegedly followed Sunil and attacked him near Chowdeshwari Samudhaya Bhavan, leaving him seriously injured. He was taken to Mandya District Hospital but later died during treatment. Police registered a case under BNS sections, formed special teams under senior officers to trace the accused who fled after the attack. On May 21, 2026, the police teams arrested Nishanth, Ravi, and Karthik after investigation and took them into custody for further questioning.

Challakere: Tobacco control raids conducted

CHITRADURGA

Tobacco control teams conducted raids in Challakere city of Chitradurga district to prevent youth from falling into tobacco addiction under the COTPA 2003 Act. They inspected shops near the bus stand and public hospital and caught several violations.

Officials from the District Tobacco Control Cell conducted awareness drives and warned shop owners and youth about rising deaths due to tobacco use.

They also instructed shops to display mandatory warning boards as per rules. During the operation, 21 cases were registered and fines were collected under Sections 4, 6A and 6B of the COTPA Act. Authorities imposed penalties of rupees 1500 and 600 in different violations.

District officials including health officers and police personnel participated in the inspection drive.

They said strict enforcement will continue to protect public health and youth.

Officials said tobacco control drives will be intensified across Chitradurga district to reduce illegal sales and create awareness among students and young people in future inspections across all towns and villages without delay moving forward with strict monitoring measures system.

DRINKING WATER URGENCY

CEO orders urgent steps for drinking water supply

MANDYA

CEO KR Nandini told officials to take urgent steps to prevent drinking water shortage in villages during summer season. She spoke at District Water and Sanitation Committee meeting held at Zilla Panchayat hall in Mandya.

Officials were instructed to ensure continuous water supply and carry out emergency works based on priority and need in every village. There should be no difference in water quality or quantity and all villages must receive minimum supply without interruption.

Officials were asked to prepare action plans showing problems solutions and estimated costs for villages facing water shortage issues. The meeting discussed borewell failures pipeline repairs electricity issues and falling groundwater levels across several taluks in the district.

Officials directed drilling of new borewells repairing pumps and supplying water through tankers in areas where needed urgently. A special helpline has been set up to receive complaints and resolve drinking water issues quickly for citizens. Officials reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission works and ordered speedy completion of delayed rural water supply projects. Water quality testing campaigns will be conducted in villages with participation of staff and local community workers.

Officials said coordinated efforts between departments will ensure better service delivery and reduce shortages in rural areas. Administration assured that all necessary steps will be taken to ensure safe and uninterrupted drinking water supply during summer.

CEO Nandini concluded that the administration is committed to solving water problems across Mandya district and ensuring supply. Officials said village level monitoring will be strengthened and regular inspections will be conducted to prevent any disruption in water supply during peak summer months.

Authorities emphasized that public cooperation is essential for sustainable water management and urged citizens to use water carefully, avoid wastage, and support government efforts to maintain clean and safe drinking water in all rural and urban areas of Mandya district for long term sustainability and better living conditions effectively in all regions ensuring long term water security for all citizens homes.

Health Officials Warn Public About Dog Bites

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Dog bite cases are common in Chikkaballapura and officials have warned that they can become dangerous if not treated quickly because rabies is a deadly disease that spreads through infected animal bites and has no cure once symptoms appear. Health experts said early symptoms include fever, headache, pain or itching at bite site, fatigue, nausea, sore throat and difficulty sleeping, while advanced stages may cause hydrophobia, fear of water, fear of air, anxiety, hallucinations, excessive drooling, muscle spasms and paralysis.

QUICK READ

Fish truck overturns after tyre burst

CH NEWS, Udupi
A fish-laden lorry overturned near Ambagilu in Udupi on Tuesday after a sudden tyre burst caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The truck was transporting fish from Mangaluru when the accident occurred on the roadside. The driver, who was alone in the vehicle, escaped with minor injuries. Local residents rushed to the spot and assisted him immediately after the mishap. The lorry suffered considerable damage in the accident. Police visited the scene, conducted an inspection and later cleared the vehicle from the road. Traffic movement in the area was disrupted briefly following the incident.

District to observe Menstrual Hygiene Day with awareness

CH NEWS, Mangaluru
Dakshina Kannada district will mark International Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28 with a series of awareness programmes across rural areas to encourage healthy discussions on menstruation and hygiene practices. The Karnataka government's Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department has instructed all taluk and gram panchayat offices to organise events on the occasion. Participants will wear bracelets containing 23 white beads and five red beads, symbolising the 28-day menstrual cycle.

Police educates NCC cadets on cybercrime and drugs

CH NEWS, Udupi
Around 600 National Cadet Corps students at St Francis Xavier English Medium School in Udyavara attended an awareness session on cybercrime and drug abuse conducted by Udupi Police constable Pavan Kumar. During the programme, the officer explained safety measures to prevent cyber frauds such as hacking, fake job offers, fraudulent loan schemes and so-called digital arrest scams. Students were advised to remain alert while using online platforms and avoid sharing personal information with unknown sources. The session also focused on the dangers of narcotic drugs and the legal consequences under the NDPS Act. Cadets we re encouraged to make responsible choices and spr ead awareness among the ir peers and communities.

Officials urged to speed up minority schemes

Mandya has 64 minority Anganwadi centres with 4,300 children; officials urged to address dropout causes

MANDYA

Karnataka State Minorities Commission Chairman U Nisar Ahmed said that there should be no negligence in implementing the Prime Minister's 15 point minority welfare programme and all departments must ensure timely delivery of benefits.

He presided over a progress review meeting with district level officials at the district collector office and reviewed implementation of the new 15 point programme for minorities in Mandya district.

The Prime Minister's 15 point programme aims at comprehensive development of minority communities including Muslim Jain Christian Sikh Parsi and Buddhist groups across welfare education and employment sectors.

Officials were instructed to ensure Anganwadi enrolment of minority children under six years and to prevent dropouts through door to door awareness campaigns in villages.

There are 64 minority Anganwadi centres in Mandya district with over 4300 children enrolled and officials were told to identify reasons for dropouts and take corrective action.

He also directed officials to promote self employment schemes including PM Swanidhi micro credit loans youth fund programmes and skill development training for minority youth across the district.

Lead Bank Manager Arun Kumar informed that 477 minority beneficiaries have received education loans while government welfare schemes are being implemented through banks at low interest rates.

District Collector Dr Kumar said implementation of minority welfare schemes is satisfactory and assured that all eligible beneficiaries are being covered under government programmes.

Officials including Zilla Panchayat CEO KR Nandini and other district officers attended the meeting and stressed the need for effective coordination and monitoring of welfare schemes.

We need to ensure strict implementation of all minority welfare programmes in Mandya district by improving coordination between departments and increasing field level monitoring. The government is also focusing on education skill development financial inclusion and awareness generation among minority communities to ensure equal opportunities and social justice. Officials were instructed to conduct regular inspections of schools and Anganwadi centres and submit progress reports on time. Community leaders also expressed support for the sche mes and requested faster delivery of benefits to eligible families across rural and urban areas.

Activists condemn the state government for shielding rioters while urging strict measures against lawbreakers

SDPI protest condemns vigilantism and case withdrawals

MANGALURU

Members of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) staged a protest near the Clock Tower, strongly opposing the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw cases registered against rioters. The demonstration was organized jointly by the party's city and rural district units in Mangaluru and witnessed participation from party workers, leaders, and members of the public.

Protesters raised slogans against the government and accused it of encouraging forces that disturb communal harmony by withdrawing cases against individuals involved in violent incidents. They demanded immediate action to stop assaults, attacks, and vigilantism carried out in the na me of cow protection. Demonstrators also called for strict punishment against those taking the law into their own hands.

Addressing the gathering, Riyaz Farangipete criticized the BJP and Sangh Parivar or-

ganizations, alleging that they act against constitutional principles and spread misinformation through social and political platforms. He claimed that secular political parties had failed to effectively challenge such narratives, allowing the BJP to strengthen its influence across the country.

Farangipete also alleged that in some cases police personnel assist groups involved in stopping cattle transport vehicles, filing cases against transporters while failing to act against tho se engaged in violence and vigi lantism. He questioned the legitimacy of moral policing acti vities and accused authorities of protecting troublemakers ins tead of maintaining law and order.State Secretary Riyaz Kadam bu expressed disappointment over what he described as unfulfilled election promises made by the Congress government. He referred to assurances regarding restoration of hijab rights, re-implementation of 2B reservation, and other public welfare measures that had gained significant support from Muslim voters during elections. Rural District President Anwar Sadath Bajatturu said the withdrawal of cases against pro-Kannada leaders such as Vatal Nagaraj was welcome, but criticized the withdrawal of cases against individuals accused of hate speech, including Pramod Muthalik and Chaitra Kundapura.

Several party leaders and representatives attended the protest, including state committee member Ashraf Agnadi, city district general secretary Jamal Jokatte, secretary Nisar Valavoor, rural district secretary Shakir Alakemajalu, and members of the Women India Movement. The programme was compered by rural district secretary Ashraf Talapady.

Skill training center opens doors for rural youth

KUNDAPURA

A new chapter in rural skill development began with the inauguration of the SKF Industrial Training Center at Guddeyangadi near Yedadi-Matyadi in Kundapura taluk of Udupi District. The training center has been established through a joint initiative of the Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar Charitable Trust and SKF Elixir India Private Limited with the aim of creating employment opportunities and self-reliance among rural youth.

The center was inaugurated by Dr. M. Mohan Alva from Moodbidri. Speaking at the event, he praised the inspiring journey of Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar, who overcame hardships through determination and hard work. He stated that Dr. Achar has created thousands of employment opportunities across India and abroad through his enterprises and philanthropic initiatives.

Dr. Alva noted that the newly established center reflects Dr. Achar's commitment to giving back to his hometown by providing industry-oriented education and employment support to local youth. He further mentioned that Dr. Achar has successfully expanded business operations to nearly 23 countries and wished continued global success for the organization.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ramakrishna Achar explained that the institution would especially focus on students who failed SSLC or PUC examinations. He announced that such students would receive completely free technical training along with placement opportunities within the organization itself. Sharing his own experiences of struggle and achievement, he encouraged young peo ple to make use of the opportunities provided by the center.

The SKF Industrial Training Center has already started admissions for the 2026–27 academic year. The institution offers several technical programs based on current industrial needs, including electrical and electronics, refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics, plumbing, and fashion design. Most courses are of one-year duration, while the fashion design course lasts six months.

Each batch is limited to 20 students to ensure quality training. Participants will also receive internship opportunities and career guidance support. Students who have passed or failed SSLC, completed PUC, or even graduates are eligible to apply for admission.

Several dignitaries attended the inaugural event, including Kiran Kumar Kodgi, industrialist M. Dinesh Hegde Molahalli, Dr. Sudhakar Shetty, auditor S.S. Nayak, contractor B. Arun Kumar Hegde, former Gram Panchayat president Chandrashekhar Shetty, and Dr. Ramesh Shetty.

Mandya police arrest gang targeting women travelers

MANDYA

Mandya police have arrested a gang involved in targeting and robbing women walking alone on canal and field roads and have recovered stolen gold ornaments and vehicles used in the crimes.

The case began after a complaint was filed by Puttamma Kom Madaiah, a 51-year-old labourer from Ansale village in Kirugavalu hobli, Malavalli taluk. She stated that on March 30, 2026, while walking alone on the Chikmulagudu–Ramanath Mole road, unidentified persons on a motorcycle snatched her gold chain.

Following the complaint, a case was registered at Kirugavalu police station and an investigation was launched. Under the guidance of senior police officials including the district superintendent of police, a special team was formed to trace the accused.

Police arrested four individuals from different villages in Malavalli and Maddur taluks after sustained surveillance and investigation. Officials said the accused were linked to multiple chain snatching and robbery cases reported across several police station limits in previous years.

According to police records, the accused were involved in several cases registered between 2022 and 2026 under charges including robbery and theft. Authorities said they had been operating across rural routes targeting vulnerable pedestrians, especially women travelling alone.

Police recovered 475.5 grams of stolen gold ornaments and two motor cycles used in the crimes. The estimated value of the seized property is about ₹70.37 lakh.

Officials said the arrests were made with coordinated efforts of multiple police teams across Mandya district.

The accused are currently under investigation, and further legal action is being taken.

Udupi administration tightens vigilance ahead of Bakrid

UDUPI

The district administration in Udupi has intensified precautionary measures ahead of Bakrid celebrations to ensure peaceful observance of the festival and maintain communal harmony. A key district-level committee meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, with participation from senior officials representing various government departments and law enforcement agencies. During the meeting, authorities discussed measures to prevent unauthorized slaughter activities and illegal transportation of livestock during the Eid al-Adha period. Officials emphasized that strict vigilance would be maintained across the district while ensuring that lawful religious practices are carried out without disruption.

Dr Prasad directed officials to protect flood-prone areas and regularly update vulnerable families with safety instructions

Officials urge monsoon safety measures in Kodagu

MADIKERI

Kodagu district in-charge secretary Dr. N.V. Prasad has called for necessary precautions and preparedness as early signs of the monsoon have begun in the district. He spoke at a meeting held on Tuesday during a capacity building programme of Ponnampet Taluk Panchayat and reviewed preparedness measures across departments.

Dr. Prasad directed officials to take special care in vulnerable and flood prone areas and ensure that families living in such regions are regularly updated about safety instructions. He also instructed authorities to strengthen facilities at relief and care centres so that essential services are available during emergencies.

He stressed the need to complete repair works of dilapidated school and Anganwadi buildings to prevent accidents during heavy rains. He also reviewed drinking water supply projects and asked officials to complete pending works under the Jal Jeevan Mission at the earliest. The secretary advised the Agriculture Department to guide farmers on availability of fertilizers, seeds, urea and machinery so that the sowing season is not affected by monsoon conditions. District officials said a monsoon helpline centre has already been set up and nodal officers have been appointed to monitor rainfall related issues. District Collector S.J. Somashekhar said all necessary precautionary measures are in place to handle monsoon challenges.

The meeting also discussed progress in animal husbandry and horticulture departments. Senior officials from revenue, forest and panchayat departments attended and reviewed preparedness plans for the upcoming rainy season across Kodagu district.

Kadirenahalli underpass gets drainage plan

BENGALURU

Additional Commissioner Dr. Naveen Kumar Raju of Bengaluru South City Corporation conducted a surprise inspection at Kadirenahalli underpass after reports of rainwater logging disrupted traffic movement in the area.

He inspected the underpass along with waste transfer points near Kadirenahalli Cross and Yalachenahalli Lake. Officials informed him that recent heavy rains had exposed weak drainage systems, leading to water accumulation and inconvenience to commuters.

Dr. Raju instructed engineers to immediately design and implement a permanent drainage solution to ensure smooth rainwater flow.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS ALERT

Health Officer urges blood test for every fever case

CHITRADURGA

Health Education Officer B. Moogappa has advised the public to undergo a blood test for any kind of fever, stating that early diagnosis is the only way to properly identify diseases like dengue and chikungunya. He said there is no specific direct treatment without proper testing.

He was speaking during a community health education programme held at Prashanta Nagar under Budhnagar Health Centre as part of Dengue Awareness Day activities.

Government nursing college students also participated in spreading awareness in Anganwadi centres. Officials explained that dengue and chikungunya are caused by Aedes mosquitoes, which breed in clean stagnant water and usually bite during the daytime. Common symptoms include sudden fever, eye pain and joint pain, while severe cases may lead to bleeding, low consciousness and even life threatening conditions if not treated on time. Health experts advised people to maintain clean surroundings, avoid water stagnation, properly dispose of waste and take precautions against mosquito bites. They also urged households to clean water storage areas weekly to prevent mosquito breeding.

Senior Health Inspector T. Sreenivasamurthy appealed for public cooperation during door to door health surveys and larva inspection drives. He said community participation is essential for preventing mosquito borne diseases and maintaining hygiene in residential areas.

Nursing instructor Lavanya and students demonstrated awareness activities using pamphlets to educate the public. Anganwadi workers and local residents participated in the programme and supported the awareness drive aimed at reducing mosquito borne diseases in Chitradurga district through better hygiene and timely medical testing practices for all fever cases in the region.

CNC honors Codava martyrs at memorial ceremony

MADIKERI

A delegation from the Codava National Council led by Chairman N.U. Nachappa Codava visited the Devattparamb Codava Genocide Memorial Site on 26 May 2026 to pay monthly tribute to Codava ancestors who lost their lives while defending their homeland and community. Members of the delegation offered floral tributes and conducted prayers in remembrance of the victims. During the ceremony, the organisation recalled the tragic events of 12 December 1785, when thousands of unarmed Codava men, women, and children were allegedly massacred at Devattparamb. According to the CNC, forces of the Mysore Sultanate and soldiers associated with the Fre nch East India Company invited Codavas to what was presen ted as a peace gathering before carrying out the killings. The delegation stated that the attack followed repeated military campaigns by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan to gain control over Codava territory, which was strategically im portant because of its access to the Malabar Coast and its valuable spice trade.

QUICK READ

Absconding former BDO arrested in New Town

KOLKATA

Absconding former Block Development Officer Prashant Barman was arrested in New Town after accidentally ramming his car into a two-wheeler. Allegedly drunk, Barman abused locals and misbehaved with police, refusing a breathalyzer test and threatening to contact the Chief Secretary. Police maintained restraint during the dramatic midnight arrest. Barman had been on the run since January 2026 after defying Supreme Court orders to surrender. He remains the prime accused in the October murder and abduction of Salt Lake gold trader Swapan Kamilya. Local authorities are now finalizing further legal action against the influential former official.

Residents rescued from Delhi Vijay Vihar fire

NEW DELHI

A massive fire broke out in a three-storey house in Delhi's Vijay Vihar Phase-Two. The Delhi Fire Service received the emergency call around seven a.m. and immediately rushed three fire tenders to the scene. Officials stated that the blaze initially ignited in the ground-floor parking area before rapidly spreading to the upper floors. Firefighters launched a swift rescue operation, safely evacuating all trapped residents before successfully dousing the flames after relentless efforts. No casualties were reported. An official inquiry is currently underway to determine the exact cause of this frightening incident.

Wild elephant attack kills woman in Wayanad

WAYANAD

A tragic wild elephant attack at Kalladi claimed the life of a woman named Jessy. The victim was traveling on a scooter with her husband, Shaji, when the elephant suddenly emerged and attacked them. Shaji sustained injuries and was rushed to the hospital, while Jessy died from her wounds.

The incident sparked public anger over rising human-wildlife conflicts in the region.

Kerala Forest Minister Shibhu Baby John promised immediate compensation and support for the family. He directed forest officials to restore normalcy and vowed to implement stronger, long-term measures to secure forest-border zones.

CM Sarma hails Assam's economic growth

He says the state witnessed historic economic growth, a massive reduction in poverty, and an unprecedented expansion of job opportunities over the past few years

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma proudly highlighted his government's major financial and social achievements in the Assembly.

He claimed that the state has witnessed historic economic growth, a massive reduction in poverty, and an unprecedented expansion of job opportunities over the past few years.

Addressing the House, Sarma announced that Assam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by ₹8.71 lakh crore over the last five years, showcasing rapid financial progress. He asserted that local poverty levels dropped significantly during this period and are projected to decrease by another two to three percent soon, thanks to successful welfare schemes.

Focusing heavily on youth empowerment, the Chief Minister promised massive employment generation.

He announced that the state government will soon create two lakh new public sector jobs for local youth over the

next five years.

Sarma also strictly criticized the opposition Congress party, claiming that Assam's budget never saw substantial growth during their previous rule.

He alleged that under the past Congress regime, state government employees were routinely deprived of their monthly salaries for nearly six months at a time.

Predictably, these sharp remarks triggered furious reactions from opposition benches, with Congress lawmakers strongly contesting the government's economic data. However, the ruling BJP firmly maintained that Assam has entered an era of unprecedented development, high-tech infrastructure investments, and efficient welfare delivery under Sarma's decisive leadership.

AMC launches intensive pre-monsoon health drive

AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad and Rajkot corporations have achieved a massive decline in dengue and malaria cases through intense surveillance and fogging operations.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has launched an intense pre-monsoon campaign to fight dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. Thanks to massive surveillance, fogging, and anti-larval operations, the city has successfully achieved a sharp decline in mosquito-borne illnesses compared to last year.

Official data shows Ahmedabad recorded only 110 dengue cases from January to May 2026, dropping massively from 1,591 cases in 2025. Similarly, malaria cases fell drastically to just 65 cases this year, compared to nearly a thousand last year. The AMC attributed this major health victory to constant supervision and strict monitoring.

As part of the preventative action plan, the civic body deployed 274 fogging machines and 2,000 workers to clear high-risk hotspots. Teams collected over 6.53 lakh blood samples for health tracking. Additionally, health workers destroyed 577 breeding spots and heavily penalized.

Intelligence reports reveal Lashkar-e-Taiba plans a two-pronged strategy to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir using increased launchpads.

LET PLANS 2 PRONGED TERROR REVIVAL STRATEGY

NEW DELHI

Striking intelligence reports reveal that the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group is planning a dangerous, two-pronged strategy to revive its violent campaign in Jammu and Kashmir.

The desperate outfit aims to massively increase terrorist launchpads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and drive an intense online propaganda war.

Currently, the LeT has over 500 trained terrorists waiting to cross the border. Because Indian security forces have successfully blocked almost all recent infiltration attempts, the LeT leadership has grown highly desperate. At a recent meeting in PoK, commanders decided to increase the number of active launchpads to place over a thousand fighters along the border, aiming to overwhelm and stress Indian border security.

The group plans to increase daily infiltration attempts from five to twenty, hoping Indian forces might fail just once. The LeT proxy, The Resistance Front, previously carried out the horrific Pahalgam attack that killed 26 innocent tourists in 2025. Following that tragedy, India launched "Operation Sindoor," a major military strike that completely destroyed Lashkar's primary training facility in Muridke.

To rebuild its shattered network, Hafiz Saeed's son, Talha Saeed, recently met Rana Sanaullah, a close aide to Pakistan's Prime Minister, and former PoK President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan. Talha is reportedly being urged to officially take over the leadership of the group to satisfy younger cadres. Crucially, intelligence officials note that the LeT is pushing the Kashmir issue heavily to deliberately distract local PoK citizens from growing public protests over a lack of basic regional development.

Court issues notice to Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riot case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court issued a formal notice regarding an appeal challenging the acquittal of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 Anti-Sikh riots case.

The legal challenge stems from violent incidents connected to FIRs registered at the Janakpuri and Vikaspuri police stations.

A division bench consisting of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Madhu Jain issued the notice directly to Kumar, scheduling the next high-profile hearing for September 29.

The appeal was filed by riot victim Manjit Singh, who argues that the lower court acted mechanically and completely failed to appreciate crucial eyewitness testimonies.

Gulmarg Gondola reopens after technical snag

GULMARG

Normal operations returned to the famous Gulmarg Gondola, just a day after a major technical malfunction briefly halted Asia's highest ropeway.

The unexpected gearbox failure left several cable car cabins dangling dangerously mid-air, triggering a massive, high-altitude rescue mission.

The emergency operation concluded with a flawless success rate, as all 286 stranded holidaymakers were safely brought down. Local authorities confirmed that the joint multi-agency mission lasted for over six hours under highly challenging mountain conditions.

Highly trained teams from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Indian Army worked tirelessly alongside local tourist guides to execute the evacuations without a single injury.

Relieved visitors heavily praised the incredibly swift response, local hospitality, and coordination shown by the emergency teams. A tourist visiting the valley, expressed that he felt completely secure due to the constant presence of protective security personnel. He noted that helpful locals actively assisted the army, making the intense ordeal much easier for everyone trapped.

Another traveler from Mumbai, recalled that his family narrowly escaped being trapped when the system failed right before their turn. He expressed immense gratitude toward the guides who guided his children down the mountain safely without charging any fees.

Tourism officials reassured travelers that the popular destination remains completely safe, encouraging holidaymakers to visit the scenic resort comfortably and explore the beautiful valley without any worry.

NCRTC invites retail bids for Meerut stations

NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has officially invited commercial bids to license prime retail spaces across eight stations in Meerut. This strategic move aims to expand passenger amenities and boost local business along the busy Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor.

According to an official release, thirteen specific locations will be licensed out to winning business partners for a fixed nine-year period. The available properties include both raw and fully built-up retail units. These spaces range dynamically in size from small fourteen-square-meter kioskstolarge 128-square-meter stores between the Partapur and Modipuram stations.

The selected transit hubs include Partapur, Rithani, Shatabdi Nagar, Bhaisali, MES Colony, Daurali, Meerut North, and Modipuram. NCRTC officials stated that these spaces are perfect for commuter-focused facilities like food courts, trendy cafes, convenience store.

Esakki Subaya resigns from TN Assembly

CHENNAI

The severe political crisis within the AIADMK intensified after Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar accepted the resignation of Ambasamudram MLA Esakki Subaya. The high-profile exit marks the fourth major resignation from the party camp in just a few days.

Initially, Speaker Prabhakar rejected Subaya's typed submission because it did not comply with strict parliamentary rules.

However, the rebel legislator quickly withdrew the document and returned with a handwritten letter, which the Speaker officially accepted.

NIA charges Pakistani handlers in terror plot

SIRSA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has officially filed a chargesheet against nine intdividuals, including two Pakistani nationals, in connection with a terrifying grenade attack. The assault targeted the Sirsa women's police station in Haryana on November 25, 2025.

The two heavily implicated foreign handlers have been identified as Pakistani operatives Shahzad Bhatti and Sohail Ahmad.

Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (SARPL)
(Acting in its' capacity as Trustee of various SARC Trusts)
Regd. Office: Shriram House, No.4, Burkit Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600017
Corporate Office: Unit No. FF-A-05, A Wing|, First Floor, Art Guild House, Phoenix Market City, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai-400070,
website: www.shriramarc.com; **Phone No.:** 1800 120 2389; customercare@shriramarc.com.

SHRIRAM Asset Reconstruction

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)
Under Rule 8(1) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited,** acting in capacity as **Trustee various SARCT Trusts** (hereinafter referred to as **"SARPL"**) under Section (5) of the SARFAEI Act having acquired the financial assets pertaining to various borrowers including the borrowers mentioned herein below together with the underlying security interest created thereof along with all the rights, title and interest thereupon from secured creditor/Original Lender/Assignor **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd** Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(hereinafter referred to as **"Sarfaesi Act")** & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with the interest thereupon at the applicable/contractual rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice along with further interest as applicable, incidental cost, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realization as mentioned in the below Schedule.
SARPL has stepped into the shoes of original lender which has all the rights, title, interest of the secured creditor with respect to financial assets. The borrowers mentioned hereinbelow have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that Authorized Officer of **Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited** has taken possession of the property/ies/ secured assets described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the SARFAESI Act.
The borrowers and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned property/ies/secured assets and any dealing with the property/ies/ secured assets will be subject to the charge of Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited for the amount and interest thereon as per loan/Assignment agreement. **The Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section (13) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

S. No.	Loan Account No & Trust Details/ Original Lender	Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of the Secured Asset (Immoveable Property)
1.	**Loan Account Number:** MHL00480014341 **Trust Details:** SARCT Trust 13 **Original Lender:** Manappuram Home Finance Ltd	Anjinamma G R, Annappa K & Kampalappa K	14-06-2025 & Rs. 324621/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property No. 141, E Swathu No 151200201100300233, Measuring 9.144 X 12.192 Mtrs I.e 111.48 Sq Mts, Situated At Bullapur Village, Anagodu Gram Panchayath, Dist-Davangere, RO. Anagodu, Davanagere, Karnataka, Pin: 577556

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Date: 27.05.2026 **M/s of Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited**
Place: DAVANGARE **(Acting in its' capacity as Trustee of SARC Trust-__)**

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS/2026-27/502 Date : 19/05/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: 1. Construction of road to Sindhanmadu joining road at Sindhanmadu, Const of road from Hanumanahalli to Allolli, Const of road from Kachwar gate to Kalkamba gate, Const of road Turnur main road to Namwar seemi at Turnur, Const of road from Batgera Siddapur main road to Namwar road via Bojj sharnappa field at Bhutpur, Const of cc road and drain at Bhutpur, Const of road from Gundalli B to Raghapur, Const of road from Himam Patel house to Yadgir road at turkha Bomanahalli of Sedam Tq under **KKRDB Indent No.26742**
2. Cons of cc road and drain at Imadapur, Cons of cc rd and drain from Kumbar ashok house to water tank at Gopanpalli, Impro to rd from Javarnagar toll gate rd towards Madari rd at Javarnagar, Cons of rd from Rudrawar hala to sanna hanadi at Jakanpalli, Cons of cc rd and drain at Konapur, Cons of rd from Ragapur to Gundalli, Cons of cc rd and drain from Basawaraj Policepatil house Mallareddy house and from Dayanand Swamy house to Sabanna Kumbar house at Munkanpalli and Cons of CC at Rudrawar under KKRDB Indent No.26739
3. Construction of road from main road to Rajolli joining road at Kodla village, Construction of CC road and drain at ward no 05 at Kodla, Construction of CC road and drain at ward no 01, 02, 03 and 04 at Kodla, Construction of road from Handarki village to Rajolli village, Construction of CC road and drain Sharnappa Minakki house to Bhimraya Budur house, Devappa Bangali house to Ragappa Channakki house and Basavaraj house to Hanmanth Ingalgi house at Hulgol under **KKRDB 2025-26 Indent No.26743**
4. Constn of box culvert to Sri Siddeshwara temple rd at Lingampalli, consn of cc rd & drain at Rajol K, impr of rd frm Bannur to Lingampalli rd at Bannur, consn of cc road and drain at Kadlapur, impr of rd frm Gopanpalli B & Gopanpalli Tanda rd, constn of cc road & drain at Gopanpalli, impr of rd frm harijanwadi to Poshamayi temple at Gundepalli, constn of cc road & drain at Eranapalli, constn of cc road and drain in Ribbanpalli, impr to road frm Nadepalli main rd to Ribbanpalli rd at Nadepalli under **KKRDB 2025-26 Indent No.26753**
5. Construction of library building in Jayanagar ward no. 48, Construction of library building in Kanta colony ward no. 43, Construction of library building in Shivashakti Nagar Kotnoor D village, Construction of library building in Akkamahadevi colony ward no.52 and Construction of library building in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Nagar Kalaburagi south assembly constituency in Kalaburagi Taluka under **KKRDB Indent No.26737**
6. Construction of Four Class Rooms and Others to Govt Higher Primary School at Dandgund Village in Chittapur Taluka Dise Code 29040402601 under **KKRDB Indent No.24679/Call-2,**
2) Head of account : **KKRDB for the year 2025-26**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Minimum Rs. 55,34,692.36, Maximum Rs. 1,58,72,076.65,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class-III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **20-05-2026 to 03-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee : As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 1,11,000.00, Maximum Rs. 2,39,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents : **20-05-2026 to 03-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **04-06-2026 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **06-06-2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/164/KSMC&A/2026-27

Kejriwal rallies voters for Punjab municipal polls

NEW DELHI

As Punjab held its highly anticipated municipal elections, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal strongly urged citizens to vote.

He called voting a powerful democratic tool that solves local issues and secures a better future for working families.

Amid heavy security arrangements, polling successfully kicked off across the state to elect local councillors for 1,896 wards. These crucial elections cover eight major municipal corporations, 75 municipal councils, and 20 nagar panchayats. Experts view the extensive local body elections as a major political test ahead of the upcoming 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

Kejriwal emphasized that voting directly shapes a community's wellbeing.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1 (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 052.

No. DGM-1/BSWML/PR/344/26-27 Date: 26.05.2026

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

The Deputy General Manager–1 invites Quotations for the work described in the table below. Bidders may submit their quotations for the work mentioned therein.
The quotation shall be submitted in a sealed cover to above mentioned office within the date and time specified.

Description of work

Transportation of Raw Fresh Leachate about 4.5 lakhs litres to farmers land (35 Km around), from Doddabidarakallu Wet Waste Processing Plant using appropriate vehicles. Including labours with necessary gears and safety equipment, machinery, lead, lift, toll charges, all taxes, GST (If applicable). As per the direction of engineer in charge of the Work

Calendar of events:
1. Submission of quotation: **27.05.2026** onwards.
2. Last date submission of quotations: **05.06.2026 before 5.30 PM.**
3. Date of opening of quotations: **06.06.2026 after 11.00 AM onwards**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/832/Shirdi Sai/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.**

QUICK READ

2 Trinamool leaders arrested for corruption

KOLKATA

Two Trinamool Congress leaders were arrested in separate West Bengal districts following major crackdowns on corruption. In North 24 Parganas, the police arrested Baduria Municipality Chairman Dipankar Bhattacharya after recovering nearly eighty lakh rupees in cash and thousands of government-funded tarpaulins. Bhattacharya, who had been hiding in a hotel planning a long-term escape, was tracked down following complaints filed by opposition parties. Meanwhile, in South 24 Parganas, protests erupted outside the home of Trinamool regional President Gautam Aari. Local authorities raided Aari's property, recovering a massive cache of hoarded government relief materials, including blankets, mats, and fish food, leading to his immediate arrest.

Tragic well collapse kills 5 labourers in Panna

BHOPAL

A devastating soil cave-in at an under-construction public irrigation well claimed the lives of five labourers in Panna district's Biharpurwa village. The workers were executing excavation tasks under the MNREGA scheme when loose soil suddenly collapsed, trapping them under tonnes of debris. District Collector Usha Parmar and Superintendent of Police Nivedita Naidu rushed to the scene with heavy earth-moving machinery to oversee the rescue operation. Authorities identified the deceased, four of whom belonged to the same family, including two brothers and their sons. Local MP Vishnudutt Sharma expressed deep condolences and confirmed that the district administration is providing immediate relief.

Govt moves fast to fix CBSE payment system

NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met top officials from four major public sector banks to fix the CBSE payment system. After students faced technical glitches during re-evaluation fee payments, the minister demanded urgent action. He ordered State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, and Indian Bank to build a secure, student-friendly system. The banks must ensure fast transactions, instant failed-payment refunds, and quick complaint resolution. This emergency meeting follows the minister's recent discussion with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Bank leaders promised to upgrade their digital infrastructure immediately to support students.

TMC MP's presence at CM's meet sparks speculation

Trinamool MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar sparked intense political speculation after attending an administrative meeting led by CM Suvendu Adhikari.

KOLKATA

Speculation intensified over the political future of senior Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar after she attended an administrative meeting led by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari. Three other Trinamool state lawmakers also attended the high-level meeting held in Kalyani.

The developments follow Dastidar's sudden resignation on Sunday as Trinamool's district president for Barasat. Her resignation was triggered after being replaced as the party's Lok Sabha chief whip. Following her removal, she posted a sarcastic social media message about being "rewarded" for four decades of loyalty.

She subsequently blamed the election-management firm I-PAC and widespread grassroots corruption for the party's heavy losses in the recent assembly elections, which ended Mamata Banerjee's fifteen-year rule.

While Dastidar's appearance alongside the newly formed BJP government raised eyebrows, both sides publicly downplayed any immediate political shift. Chief Minister Adhikari had previously announced that opposition representatives would be invited to official administrative sessions to voice regional needs. Attending lawmakers Bina Mondal, Abdul Matin, and Anisur Rahaman Bidesh maintained they attended strictly to secure state development and financial cooperation for their marginalized constituencies.

However, local political analysts view the cross-party attendance as a highly significant shift in state dynamics. Dastidar's public criticism of her own party's governance, combined with the central government recently upgrading her security to the Y-category, suggests a widening rift. Observers continue to watch the veteran politician closely as internal tensions brew within Trinamool's ranks.

ED raids Royale Estate Group offices

CHANDIGARH

The Enforcement Directorate conducted extensive search operations across multiple locations in Punjab and Chandigarh. The federal raids targeted various residential and commercial properties linked to Chandigarh Royale City Promoters Private Limited and the Royale Estate Group over a major money-laundering case.

The agency's actions stem from a criminal case registered by the Punjab Police in July 2025. Company directors and their close associates face severe allegations of cheating, breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy. Specifically, the promoters allegedly defaulted on mandatory statutory payments owed to the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority. Furthermore, the company submitted bounced cheques totaling nearly thirty-three crore rupees regarding a major residential colony project located in Karala village, Mohali.

Financial investigators revealed that the real estate firm maintained massive outstanding liabilities while secretly diverting project funds.

Munambam land row: Kerala BJP chief seeks Rijiju's intervention

NEW DELHI

The land dispute triggered a fresh political row after the Kerala State Waqf Board listed over 400 acres on the Umeed portal .

The ongoing Munambam land dispute escalated further after Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar urged the central government to intervene. In a formal letter to Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Chandrasekhar demanded the immediate removal of over 400 acres of disputed coastal land from the central government's UMEED portal.

The political row intensified when the Kerala State Waqf Board registered the highly contentious property on the national digital platform. Chandrasekhar claimed this registration openly violated federal guidelines and statutory frameworks.

He explained that under current laws, only a designated trustee is authorized to upload property records onto the portal, a right that belongs to Farook College in this case. Instead, he charged, the Waqf Board acted completely unilaterally. He further accused local opposition coalitions of playing divisive vote-bank politics by caving to extremist minority groups rather than protecting citizens.

This demand for federal action comes just a day after Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan publicly promised panicked local residents that they would not face eviction from their ancestral homes. The long-standing Munambam dispute currently impacts over 600 vulnerable families, primarily from Hindu and Christian fishing communities who hold legal title deeds.

Waqf Board Chairman K. S. Hamza defended the portal entry, insisting the land remains permanent religious property.

However, affected residents and political leaders counter that the unilateral digital listing severely complicates a quick resolution.

Neighbors remain highly anxious, watching closely to see if the central government will step in to protect their property rights.

AIADMK seeks disqualification of 25 lawmakers

CHENNAI

The ongoing political battle in Tamil Nadu intensified as the opposition AIADMK accused the newly formed TVK government of engaging in aggressive "horse-trading." The party claims the ruling dispensation is actively luring rival lawmakers to artificially strengthen its legislative numbers.

The controversy peaked after AIADMK lawmaker Agri Krishnamurthy met with Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar to voice serious procedural concerns.

Krishnamurthy revealed that twenty-five AIADMK legislators completely ignored a strict party directive to vote against the TVK government during a recent crucial confidence motion. Instead, the rebel faction backed the ruling party.

Following this defiance, the AIADMK submitted a formal petition seeking the immediate disqualification of those turncoat members under the national anti-defection law.

However, further anger erupted when three of those rebel lawmakers suddenly resigned from the assembly and were instantly enrolled as TVK party members.

The AIADMK strongly criticized the Speaker for accepting these resignations while their disqualification cases were actively pending. Krishnamurthy claimed this rushed process creates a highly toxic political precedent, mockingly stating that "horse-trading is being carried out at horse speed."

He alleged that the state Secretariat is now functioning like an extension of the ruling party's private office.

Chouhan launches new memoir 'Apnapan'

NEW DELHI

Top political figures gathered to celebrate the launch of "Apnapan," a new book written by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The memoir details Chouhan's decades-long work alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi, offering valuable lessons for the next generation of public servants.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu highly praised the book, stating that its title beautifully reflects a deep sense of belonging and public connection.

Naidu emphasized that aspiring politicians should study the text to understand how Chouhan successfully served as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for a record seventeen years before moving into his current role in the central government.

Other prominent leaders, including Union Minister Chirag Paswan, echoed this sentiment, noting that experienced statesmen must document their journeys so younger generations can learn from past challenges.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya also congratulated Chouhan on the publication. They highlighted his extensive administrative career, spanning positions from youth leader to Union Minister. They noted that the book acts as a practical guide, meaningfully capturing Prime Minister Modi's evolution from a dedicated grassroots organizer to a national leader. The launch event highlighted the book's dual value as an intimate political memoir and a detailed roadmap for effective governance. Attendees expressed strong hope that the publication would inspire citizens from all walks of life. They believe it will serve as an essential reference point for young readers seeking authentic insights into leadership and self-reliance.

19 NEW DSPS JOIN BIHAR POLICE FORCE

PATNA

Nineteen newly trained Deputy Superintendents of Police officially joined the state force. The officers graduated during the 69th Convocation Ceremony of the Bihar Police Academy, held in Rajgir, following a grand passing-out parade.

Addressing the graduates, Bihar Director General of Police Vinay Kumar delivered an inspiring message regarding the true meaning of law enforcement. He explicitly told the young officers that policing must never be viewed as just a salaried job.

To emphasize his point, the 1991-batch officer shared a famous historical anecdote involving former Punjab police chief K.P.S. Gill. When once asked by a trainee about financial allowances, Gill famously replied that anyone entering the force solely for money could easily make a larger profit by opening a street corner shop. Kumar stressed that uniform service is fundamentally about deep community responsibility, public commitment, and protecting citizens. The graduating batch, consisting of fourteen men and five women, successfully completed a year of rigorous mental and physical preparation. Their extensive curriculum covered modern policing demands, including cybercrime investigation, digital evidence collection, riot management, and disaster response.

MODI SARKAR ON MISSION MODE

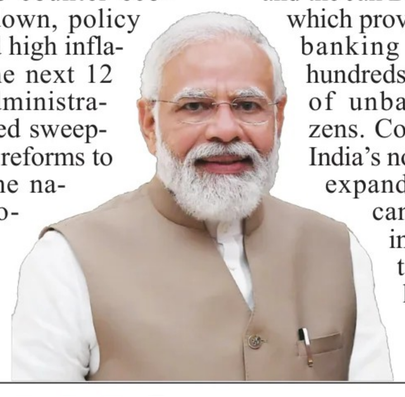
PM Modi completes 12 historic years in office

NEW DELHI

India marked exactly twelve years since a historic political shift occurred when Narendra Modi took the oath of office as the country's 15th Prime Minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The anniversary commemorates the groundbreaking May 2014 election results, where the Bharatiya Janata Party secured an outright majority with 282 seats, ending three consecutive decades of unstable coalition governments.

The 2014 mandate reflected a public desire for decisive leadership to counter economic slowdown, policy paralysis, and high inflation. Over the next 12 years, the administration introduced sweeping structural reforms to modernize the national economy.



Key milestones included the 2017 rollout of the Goods and Services Tax, which unified a complex web of central and state taxes, and the Jan Dhan Yojana, which provided formal banking access to hundreds of millions of unbanked citizens. Consequently, India's nominal GDP expanded significantly, climbing from two trillion dollars in 2014 to over four trillion dollars by 2025.

Digitalization emerged as a major cornerstone of the government's governance model. The ambitious "Digital India" initiative streamlined public welfare delivery by linking state subsidies directly to authenticated bank accounts, eliminating corruption leakages.

Major welfare campaigns, including the housing-for-all initiative, clean cooking fuel distribution, and the universal Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, successfully created a robust social safety net for vulnerable populations.

On the global stage, the administration pursued a highly visible diplomatic strategy, strengthening manufacturing through the "Make in India" campaign and adopting a robust national security posture. Twelve years later, this governance model remains defined by centralized decision-making, digital innovation, and an ongoing ambition to elevate India among the world's primary economic superpowers.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 | **Phone No.:** 0487-3520504, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Jagadeesh Shivanagouda Parutagoudar, Basamma Shivanagouda Parutagoudar, Shashikant Mallikarjungouda Patil, **/NLAP0026035503/** Hubli	All That Part And Parcel of Property Bearing Na Residential Property Bearing Gram Panchayat Property No.605, Measuring East West-7Mtrs, North South-12Mtrs, Along With Residential Structure Bearing E-Property No.15010040170047 1448 of Nagur Village, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Nagur, Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587118. East-Basamma Shivangouda Paruthagoudar, West-Passagae, South-Road, North-Road	19-01-2026 & Rs.515850/-	23-05-2026
2	Ravi Kumar R, Ramachrandra T, Sulochana S, **/NHL00930016820/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No.50/56 And E-Katha No.152500703501700062, Measuring East To West: 9.7536 Meters And North To South: 10.97 Meters, Situated At Huyil Dore Village, Bukapattana Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572137. East-Property of Thimmaiah, West-Road, South-Property of Jayamma, North-House of Thimmakka	19-01-2026 & Rs.369011/-	23-05-2026
3	Gowramma, Mahadevashetty, **/MLAP0090040703/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 85/1, Pl.D. No.15220052216102001 3, Situated At Baguru Grama, Kudlapura Gramapanchayat, Nanjangud Block, Mysore (D), Admeasuring: 198.07 Sq Mts of Site 198.06 Sq Mts of Building, Karnataka, Pin: 571118. East-Road, West-Property of Basavashetty, South-House of Rangaswamy, North-House of Prema	19-01-2026 & Rs.427992/-	23-05-2026
4	Kamalavva Basavanni Danadavar, Kamalesh Basappa Danadavar, Anjali Kamalesh Danadavar, **/MLAP0098005823/** Belgaum	Residential Property Bearing GP No: 404, 17X60= 1020 Sq Fts, Situated At Panagutti, Within The Local Limits of Gram Panchayat Dharanatti [Rangadolli] And Within The Local Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar Belagavi Tal & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591243. East-Public Road, West-House of Siddavva Basappa Halabar, South-House of Lagamavva Fakirappa Dandavar, North-Public Road	19-01-2026 & Rs.299467/-	23-05-2026
5	Bishtappa Nagappa Kolkar, Bharati Bishtappa Kolkar, Sushila Nagappa Kolkar, **/NLAP0098041393/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of G P No 160/K/2, Total Measuring: 1620 Sq Fts, Towards East-West: 75 Ft, Towards North-South: 21.6 Ft, Situated At Hireangrolli. Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Gandigawad, Sro Khanapur. Tal: Khanapur, Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591106. East-Panchayat Road, West-Own Open Property, South-Property of Nagappa Badiger, North-Property of Maruti Kolkar	19-01-2026 & Rs.522228/-	23-05-2026
6	Shridhar Maruti Kerwad, Maruti Siddappa Kerwad, Laxmi Tukaram Metri, **/MLAP0098054536/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of Gp No: 608/A, Swattin No. 150400202300200871 Total Measuring: 119.210000 Sq Mtrs. That Is Towards East- West 4.50,4.85 Mtrs And Towards North-South 25.50 Mtrs, Situated At Bailur Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Bailur And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Kittur. Tal: Kittur &Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin:591115. East-Property of Durgavvaya Gadeppannavar, West- Property of Yamanavvadu Kerawad, South- Gram Panchayat Road, North-Property of Siddavva Maruti Kerawad	19-01-2026 & Rs.511300/-	23-05-2026
7	Nagamallamma C, Maheshaswamy HK, Kendagannappa N, **/MHL00900022685/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing Hongalli Village Bagari Gramapanchayath Property No. 615 As Per Form No. 11B Unique No. 15080020090112026 1 Situated At Hongalli Village Bagari Gramapanchayath Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarajanagara District, Total Measuring 201.99 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571111. East-Land of Kendagannappa, West-Land of Kendagannappa, South-Land of Kendagannappa, North-Road	19-01-2026 & Rs.346410/-	23-05-2026
8	Ramu N, Narayanappa R, Adilakshmamma, **/NHL00930050147/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No. 24/34 And E-Khatha No.15250050100010020 0 Measuring East To West: 4.8768 Mtrs And North To South: 16.154400 Mtrs Is Situated At Garani Village, I. D. Halli Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572124. East-House Belongs To Lakshmamma, West-House Belongs To Venkateshappa, South-Road, North-Road	19-01-2026 & Rs.539239/-	23-05-2026
9	Devaraj Nandyanayk Lamani, Ratnabayi Nandyanayk Lamani, Deepa Devaraj Lamani, **/MLAP0144051254/** Shikaripura	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 18/1, E-Property No. 15170040230010106 4, Measuring East-West 19.09 Meter X North-South 8.18 Meter, Total 156.190000 Sq. Meter, Including 101.000000 Sq. Meter House, Situated At Nagavanda Village, Nagavanda Village Panchayath, Rattihalli Taluk, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581210. East-Property of Halesh Naik Ramanaik Lamani, West-Property of Chandra Naik Gadigya Naik Lamani, South- Panchayath Road, North-Property of Jagadeesh Naik Lamani	20-01-2026 & Rs.527898/-	23-05-2026
10	Nilavva Ningappa Sannabudihal, Revaneppa Ningappa Sannabudihal, Ningappa Nilappa Sannabudihala, **/MHL00480035809/** Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property Old No. 502/B New No.502/2, E- Swathu No. 151700502700200834, Measuring 14.50 X 6.10 Meter = 88.45Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 88.45 Sq. Mtrs, Situated At Asundi Village, Within The Limits of Village Panchayath Asundi, Ranebennur Block, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581115. East-Property of Beerappa Khichadi, West-Road In Same Property, South-Property of Chowdappa Neelappa Sannabudhihal, North-Property of Sannaguddappa Neelappa Sannabudhihal	20-01-2026 & Rs.519914/-	23-05-2026
11	Manjunath Somappa Paschapur, Yamanavva Somappa Pasahcapur, Somappa Bhimappa Paschapur, Nagaraj Somappa Pashchpur, Sannagundappa Kollar, **/NHL00260030601/** Hubli	Residential 11B Property Bearing GP No.396, Property No.150100200800280777, Measuring East To West: 7.62Mtr And North To South: 7.62Mtr, Total Measuring 58.06Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 58.06Sq Mtr, Situated At Achanur Village Within Bilkerur Gram Panchayat, Tq: & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587111. East-Property of Ameena Ibrahim Soudagar, West-Road, South-Road, North-Road	20-01-2026 & Rs.829037/-	23-05-2026
12	Prakash Nooli, Sunita Prakash Nuli, Sahashikant Bastwadi, **/NLAP0098038933/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing Gp No. 1516A, Swattin No. 150400605000101662 Total Measuring 98.72 Sq. Mtrs, Towards East-West: 5.06 Mtrs Towards North-South 19.51 Mtr. Situated At Hebbal. Tal: Hukkeri & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591221. East-By Property of Mallappa Dundappa Mathapati, West-Property of Rekha Girish Koli, South-Road, North-Drainage	22-01-2026 & Rs.237553/-	23-05-2026
13	Putta Thayamma M, Siddaraju M, **/MHL00340021356/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.7/7, Pl.D. No.15220010 605000007, Situated At Padukote Village, Padukotekaval Grama Panchayath, Heggadadevanakote Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East To West 15.24 Meters And North To South 15.24 Meters, Totally 232.25 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571189. East-House Belongs To Lakshmi Chikkanaika, West-House Belongs To Mahadevegowda, South-Road, North-Land Belongs To Mahadevegowda	22-01-2026 & Rs.354452/-	23-05-2026
14	Basanagouda Fakkiragouda Karigoudar, Mallikarjungouda Basangouda Karigoudar, Lingaraj Basappa Jaladi, **/NLAP0117016335/** Raichur	Property Bearing No. 113, Pl.D. No. 15130050190032004 7, Near Korneshwara Temple Goudar Street, Villege Arahatti, Tq Navalgund, Dist Dharwad, Karnataka Pin: 582208 Admeasuring 111.48 Sq Mts. East-Plot No. 112, West-Plot No. 114, South-Plot No. 132, North-Govt Road	22-01-2026 & Rs.332063/-	23-05-2026
15	Ningaraju M, Jayamma C, Mahadevanayaka N, **/NHL00340026351/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.517/31, Pl.D No.15080030050030050 2, Situated At Kempanapalya Grama, Siddaiahnapura Gramapanchayat, Kollegala Block, Chamarajanagara (D), Karnataka, Pin: 571440 Totally Measuring 111.48 Sq Mts., Building Measuring 22.30 Sq Mts.. East-Site No. 32, West-Hiduvali Land, South-Road, North-Site No. 30	22-01-2026 & Rs.516407/-	23-05-2026
16	Yashodha K, Kumarappa D, **/MHL00510019258/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 334/3/A, E-Property No.15240050010010030 8, Measuring East-West 18.288 Meter X North-South 6.096 Meter, Total 111.48 Sq. Meter, Including 41.81 Sq. Meter Situated At Balekoppa-1 Village, Balekoppa Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577423. East-Hiduvali Land, West-Road, South-House of Sharadamma, North-House of Hanumanthappa	22-01-2026 & Rs.383195/-	23-05-2026
17	Devamma Hiremani, Erappa Hiremani, Ningappa Hiremani, Eranna B, **/NHL01170009796/** Raichur	Residential Property Bearing Property No.365 Near Water Tank Chilwadgi Village Koppal (Tq) Koppal (Dist), Measuring 63.90 Sq Mtrs. Including Built Up Area Measuring 688 Sq Ft, Karnataka, Pin: 583230. East-Road, West-Balamma Gobbi House, South Basalingamma Uddar House, North-Road	22-01-2026 & Rs.279084/-	23-05-2026
18	Shivaraja Naik H P, Papa Naik, Seetha Bai, **/NHL00510010714/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 206, E-Property No. 15240050260050028 8, Measuring East-West 12.192 X North-South 24.384 Meter, Total 297.29 Sq. Meter, Including 102.19 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Hunasodu Village, Abbalagere Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577225. East-Property of Durgya Naika, West-Property of Peekya Naika, South-Road, North-Road	22-01-2026 & Rs.1032133/-	23-05-2026
19	Kalpana, K N Krishnamurthy, Deepthi K, Deekshith K, **/MHL00920038449/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.188, E Khatha No.15290030270090021 5, Situated At Kondahalli Village, Sathanuru Grama Panchayath, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka, Pin: 562120 Total Measuring 147.16 Sq. Meter. East-Remaining Own Property, West-Road, South-Road, North-Remaining Own Property	22-01-2026 & Rs.311264/-	23-05-2026

Date: 27th May 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

QUICK READ

Surge in violence sparks outrage in Bangladesh

Dhaka

A terrifying spike in violence against women and children has triggered widespread public outrage across Bangladesh. Human rights organizations reported multiple horrific assaults across several districts, including Chuadanga, Jashore, and Cumilla. Local police have detained multiple suspects, including a twenty-year-old man in Chuadanga for assaulting an elderly woman, and a youth in Jashore for attacking a nine-year-old girl. Outrage further intensified in Cumilla after local village leaders attempted to cover up an assault through informal arbitration. Security experts warned of a severe breakdown in legal accountability, while UNICEF expressed deep concern, demanding an immediate end to the culture of impunity and calling for stronger child protection laws.

Train crash with school van in Belgium kills 4

Brussels

A train collided with a school minivan at a level-crossing in Buggenhout, killing four people. The victims included two special needs pupils, the van driver, and an adult chaperone. Two other students suffered severe injuries. Transport Minister Jean-Luc Crucke stated that security camera footage confirmed the crossing's safety barriers were fully down when the crash occurred. The vehicle was transporting seven special needs children to school. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed deep grief over the tragedy. This horrific accident spotlights Belgium's dense rail network, which has seen numerous fatal level-crossing collisions since 2021.

PoJK protests intensify over soaring utility tariffs

As JAAC protests intensify across PoJK, angry leaders have rejected government talks, demanding economic relief and immediate regional autonomy

MUZAFFARABAD

Severe political tensions continue to rock Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) intensifies its massive public mobilization campaign.

The powerful movement is demanding immediate economic relief, fair utility tariffs, and greater political self-governance.

During a roaring public rally, angry JAAC leaders rejected all further talks with state officials. They stated that the federal government in Islamabad has completely ignored their long-standing demands despite giving multiple false assurances over time. The energetic demonstrators are demanding immediate relief on high electricity tariffs, cheaper food prices, and the activation of promised subsidy packages.

Addressing a massive crowd of supporters, a local JAAC representative openly challenged the regional Assembly members. He questioned why local politicians oppose regional self-rule, loudly declaring to the cheering audience that the disputed territory belongs to Kashmir, not Pakistan. He also slammed the administration for failing to deliver promised subsidies on thirty-six essential household items.

Furious JAAC leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir urged thousands of supporters to stay united and completely occupy the protest grounds. He led aggressive chants against pro-government agents, calling the massive civil movement the ultimate death of state-sponsored corruption.

For decades, PoJK has faced intense global criticism for political neglect and severe underdevelopment. Frustrated residents continue to protest against heavy resource exploitation, unequal distribution of wealth, and their complete lack of political representation. Activists warned that public anger will continue to escalate across the region unless Islamabad grants true autonomy to the local population.

Iran orders internet restoration after 87-day blackout

TEHRAN

Iran will restore internet access following President Pezeshkian's order, amid high geopolitical tensions and ongoing peace talks with US

The Iranian government has officially announced plans to restore international internet access across the country over the "coming days." The decision follows a formal directive from President Masoud Pezeshkian, aiming to end a severe, nationwide digital blackout.

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani confirmed the breakthrough during her weekly press conference. She stated that a specialized cyberspace task force recommended lifting the restrictions to prevent domestic injustice and economic discrimination. Following their conclusion, President Pezeshkian immediately notified the Ministry of Communications to execute the order and return online rights to the citizens.

The country has been trapped under a near-total internet blackout for more than 87 days, according to reports. The strict digital blockade was initially launched on January 8 to suppress anti-regime protests, before being intensified on February 28 following joint U.S. and Israeli military strikes. The prolonged blackout crippled local businesses and blocked citizens from accessing vital safety information during foreign bombing campaigns.

Simultaneously, geopolitical tensions remain high as Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned that the region will no longer serve as a protective shield for American military bases. Meanwhile, diplomatic peace talks continue between Washington and Tehran. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio criticized Iran's illegal tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz, demanding unrestricted maritime passage. Rubio noted that President Donald Trump is currently reviewing a preliminary draft for a potential peace deal, stating that a final decision will be reached within days.

Russian museum hosts historic Indian art show

ST. PETERSBURG

Russia's historic State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg will host its first dedicated contemporary Indian art exhibition starting June four. Titled "Sediments of Becoming," the groundbreaking event is presented in collaboration with Threshold Art Gallery. It features unique creations from eleven contemporary Indian artists, including Manjunath Kamath and Afrah Shafiq. Marking a first in the prestigious institution's two hundred sixty-year history, organizers describe the exhibition as a form of cultural archaeology that explores history. Curators Marina Schulz and Tunty Chauhan emphasized that this landmark display represents a vital moment of artistic dialogue between India and Russia.

In Prague, the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts concluded a historic cultural tour, using traditional performances to challenge Beijing

ARTISTES USE TRADITIONAL DANCE TO PROTEST CHINA

PRAGUE

The Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) has successfully wrapped up a historic cultural tour in the Czech Republic, using traditional music and dance to fiercely challenge Beijing's political narratives.

The high-profile showcase, held at the prestigious Senate Garden in Prague, marked the premier cultural group's first visit to the country in nearly two decades.

Organized by Czech Senate Vice-President Jitka Seitlova, the Sinopsis Foundation, and the Tibet Bureau Geneva, the event served as a peaceful protest against China's severe restrictions on Tibetan language and religious freedom. TIPA explicitly accused Beijing of attempting to distort and erase Tibetan identity on the global stage.

Through captivating classical opera performances, known as Ache Lhamo, and ancient folk dances, the talented artists proudly presented Tibet as an independent, rich civilization with thousands of years of distinct history. Tibetan representative Thinlay Chukki stated that the performances stand as a powerful symbol of truth against Chinese political pressure.

The event highlights the deep, historic friendship between the late Czech President Vaclav Havel and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Solidifying this allyship, the Czech Senate recently passed a crucial resolution supporting the Dalai Lama's right to independently choose his successor without foreign interference.

Over 300 spectators, including European senators, human rights activists, and students, attended the vibrant showcase. Moving the audience deeply, the successful cultural display successfully countered Chinese misinformation while beautifully preserving ancestral roots for young Tibetans living in the diaspora.

FRESH SECURITY CONCERNS AFTER N. KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH

SEOUL

North Korea launched an unidentified weapon toward the Yellow Sea, sparking fresh security concerns across the region. South Korea's military confirmed the launch and is currently analyzing the details, though specific information remains limited.

This unexpected move follows a series of recent weapons tests by Pyongyang. Just last month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un personally supervised the test-firing of advanced tactical ballistic missiles.

Those weapons utilized controversial cluster warheads, which scatter smaller bombs over large areas to maximize destruction. While over 120 nations have banned cluster munitions under a global treaty, North Korea is not a member of the agreement.

Neighboring countries detected those earlier tests, though confusion arose over whether the missiles were launched from land or from submarines near the coast. Meanwhile, this sudden military action coincides with major diplomatic shifts happening elsewhere in the world. In the United States, President Donald Trump announced progress in ceasefire negotiations with Iran.

Trump shared that Iran has agreed to hand over or destroy its enriched uranium under international supervision. Senior officials from both nations recently met in Qatar to finalize this historic peace agreement.

India and US sign critical minerals pact

NEW DELHI

India and the United States signed a landmark bilateral framework to secure the mining, processing, and long-term supply of critical minerals and rare earth elements. The agreement is a strategic move to build resilient technology pipelines and reduce global dependence on dominant single-source suppliers like China.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced the partnership following bilateral discussions and a Quad Foreign Minister's meeting in New Delhi. He emphasized that securing these resources is highly timely and critical in a deeply contested global landscape.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio praised the strategic alliance, calling the agreement a tangible example of how both nations' national interests align. He noted that India and the U.S. share an urgent economic need to protect reliable, long-term access to the raw materials fueling today's innovation economy.

As China currently dominates the global processing market for rare earths, this Washington-New Delhi pact marks a major step toward creating an alternative, secure supply chain among democratic nations.

The comprehensive framework expands cooperation across the entire mineral lifecycle, focusing on:

- Joint exploration and advanced mining initiatives
- Processing, refinement, and material recycling
- Coordinated financial investments in eco-friendly mining infrastructure
- Diversifying supply networks for electric vehicles (EVs), clean energy tech, and defense manufacturing

Iwate builds tech and educational ties with India

IWATE

Historically celebrated as a "Rich Land," Japan's Iwate Prefecture is actively shifting its focus toward India to build deep industrial and educational ties. Iwate Governor Takuya Tasso announced plans to establish a robust technological partnership centered on semiconductor engineering and automotive manufacturing.

The prefecture's capital, Morioka, recently gained international spotlight after being featured by major U.S. media as a top global destination. Governor Tasso attributed this success to Morioka's clean environment, where three major rivers meet, alongside a rich balance of local history, culture, and active civic preservation.

Leveraging his background as a former central government bureaucrat, Governor Tasso has consistently driven international collaborations. The region has already set up highly successful global institutions, such as the Harrow International School Appi, which hosts over 300 international students. Having solidified ties with Brazil, China, and Russia, Iwate is now setting its sights on India's booming industrial landscape.

Iwate's abundant water resources and advanced transit infrastructure have turned it into an industrial powerhouse. The region hosts major production facilities for global tech giants like Kioxia and Tokyo Electron, alongside automotive leaders Toyota and Denso.

To train the next generation of microchip talent, the prefecture launched "I-SPARK," a specialized training institute for future semiconductor engineers. Highlighting the blooming alliance, four professional interns from India's Gujarat state joined the curriculum in 2025, with a larger cohort expected to follow this year.

Governor Tasso confirmed his commitment to this economic corridor, stating he will personally visit Gujarat by March 2027 to finalize a mutual partnership framework. Local officials hope that fusing Iwate's industrial expertise with India's tech talent will pave the way for a highly resilient global supply chain.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ANSAR PASHA** S/o. ABDUL HAFIZ SAHEB aged about 54 years, residing at Ward No.06, Opp masjid, municipal layout, Chikkaballapur. Have changed my name **ANSAR PASHA. A.** to **ANSAR PASHA**, Vide affidavit dated 26-05-2026 before Notary P. V. Ramachandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary Govt. Of Karnataka. Chikkaballapur-562101.

NAME CHANGE

I, **VIKRANT GOWDA.K.J**, S/o Jayarame Gowda, R/at No. 29, Rashtrakoota Layout, Manganahalli, Ramsandra, Bangalore-560 060, hereby declare that have changed my name from **MAHADEVA.K.J** to **VIKRANT GOWDA.K.J.** Vide affidavit dated: 28/07/2023 sworn before Notary S.R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

ELITE K9S UNLEASHED

ELITE K9 TEAMS STAND OUT IN MEGHALAYA DRILL

SHILLONG

The Indian Army's elite canine warriors stole the spotlight at "Exercise PRAGATI 2026" in Meghalaya, proving themselves as invaluable assets in modern combat.

The highly trained dogs demonstrated their specialized skills alongside armed forces personnel from twelve friendly nations during high-intensity tactical drills.

According to defense spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mahendra Rawat, the K9 teams excelled in high-risk scenarios, including explosive detection, tracking, and intervention operations. The demonstration featured three standout dogs: Alan - a Belgian Malinois assault specialist, Deo - a Labrador trained to sniff out hidden bombs and Victor - an indigenous Rampur Hound.

Victor's participation marked a major milestone for India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" self-reliance initiative. Indigenous breeds like the Rampur Hound are increasingly integrated into frontline roles due to their excellent climate adaptability, natural resilience, and high disease resistance. Officials noted that these loyal animals possess the speed, instinct, and courage required to operate effectively across diverse terrains, ranging from blistering deserts to freezing high-altitude glaciers.

In a fascinating look at the future of warfare, the drill also featured high-tech robotic dogs. This display showcased how traditional animal instincts and cutting-edge technology can work together to boost battlefield effectiveness.

The two-week multinational exercise began on May 20 at the Umroi Military Station. It

brings together troops from nations including Bhutan, Malaysia, Nepal, and Vietnam to strengthen regional cooperation. Amid the heavy machinery and international troops, the silent four-legged warriors stood out for their unmatched discipline and mission readiness.

Messi suffers hamstring fatigue concern ahead of Argentina WC campaign

Inter Miami star withdrawn after discomfort, recovery timeline remains uncertain

MIAMI

Inter Miami and Argentina superstar Lionel Messi has been diagnosed with a left hamstring issue after being forced off during his club's Major League Soccer match against the Philadelphia Union, raising concerns just weeks before Argentina begins its FIFA World Cup title defence.

Inter Miami confirmed on Monday that medical tests revealed "an overload associated with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring." The club did not disclose the exact nature of the examination, although such assessments typically involve imaging scans to determine the extent of the problem.

The MLS champions stated that Messi's return to action would depend on his recovery and medical progress.

"The timeline for his return to physical activity will depend on his clinical and functional progress," the club said in an official statement.

Messi was substituted in the 73rd minute of Inter Miami's thrilling 6-4 victory over the Philadelphia Union on Sunday night. The Argentine forward appeared uncomfortable moments earlier and was seen reaching toward the back of his left leg before signalling that he could not continue.

Despite the concern, Messi walked off the field without assistance and headed directly to the dressing room. Before his departure, he had played a key role in the match, providing two assists during the first half. The injury scare comes at an important time for Argentina, which is scheduled to begin preparations for the upcoming World Cup in the United States. The reigning champions will play warm-up matches against Honduras on June 6 in Texas and Iceland on June 9 in Alabama before the tournament begins.

Argentina has been drawn in Group J, where it will face Algeria, Austria and Jordan in the group stage. The team will be hoping its captain is fully fit before the campaign gets underway. Weather conditions during Sunday's match may also have contributed to the concern. Heavy rain fell throughout the second half, making the playing surface slippery, although Inter Miami has not linked the injury to the conditions. Messi remains one of the most influential figures in world football. The 38-year-old has appeared in five World Cups and famously led Argentina to the title in 2022.

French Open hit by intense heat as temperatures soar

PARIS

A rare early-summer heat wave has gripped the French Open, forcing players and spectators to adapt to unusually high temperatures that are transforming conditions at Roland Garros and creating fresh challenges during the season's second Grand Slam.

Temperatures during the opening two days of the tournament have climbed to around 33 degrees Celsius, significantly above average for late May in Paris. Forecasts indicate that the hot spell is likely to continue throughout the first week, raising concerns about player welfare while also affecting the nature of competition on the clay courts.

Several players compared the conditions to those experienced during the Paris Olympics in 2024, which took place in the peak summer months of July and August. Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek noted that the intense heat had altered the behaviour of the ball and the speed of the courts, making this year's tournament feel markedly different.

Unseasonal Paris heat creates faster courts and testing conditions throughout

The soaring temperatures have prompted players to take extra precautions. Many have been seen placing ice towels around their necks during changeovers, while spectators have sought relief under sprinklers and water hoses used to maintain the clay surfaces between sets.

Australian player Daria Kasatkina described the conditions as among the hottest she had experienced at Roland Garros, saying the heat made concentration and energy management crucial factors in determining match outcomes.

The extreme weather has already had a visible impact on the tournament. Canadian player Gabriel Diallo cited the heat as a major reason for retiring from his opening-round match. Elsewhere, both Andrey Rublev and Ignacio Buse required medical attention during a lengthy encounter, while a ball girl also needed assistance after appearing affected by the conditions.

Tournament organisers have implemented an extreme weather protocol similar to those used at the Australian Open and US Open. Cooling breaks can be introduced when heat-stress readings exceed specific thresholds, while play can be suspended if conditions become dangerous. Not all competitors are unhappy with the weather. Australian star Alex de Minaur said the heat favours an aggressive style of play by making the ball travel faster through the air. American player Alex Michelsen echoed that view, suggesting the quicker conditions suit power hitters.

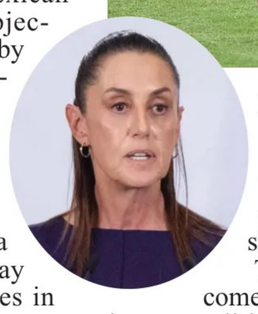
As temperatures continue to soar, adapting to the heat may prove just as important as adapting to the clay in determining who advances deep into the tournament.

President says country welcomes arrangement after United States raises concerns

Mexico agrees to host Iran team base during FIFA World Cup 2026

MEXICO CITY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has confirmed that Mexico will host Iran's national football team during the FIFA World Cup 2026 after the United States reportedly declined to accommodate the squad throughout the tournament.



Sheinbaum said Mexican authorities had no objections when approached by FIFA regarding alternative arrangements for the Iranian team. The decision means Iran will now establish its tournament base in the border city of Tijuana while continuing to play its group-stage matches in the United States.

"The United States doesn't want the Iranian national team to stay overnight in the United States," Sheinbaum told reporters. She added that FIFA subsequently contacted Mexico to explore the possibility of hosting the team.

"Can they stay overnight in Mexico? And we said, 'Yes, no problem. We have no issue with that,'" she said.

The change comes amid continuing geopolitical tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel. Iran's football federation had earlier announced that its originally planned base in Tucson, Arizona, would be shifted to Tijuana because of the prevailing circumstances. FIFA later confirmed the adjustment to the team's World Cup preparations.

Iran is scheduled to play all three of its Group G matches in the United States despite being based in Mexico. The Asian side will open its campaign against New Zealand national football team in Inglewood, California, on June 15. It will then face Belgium national football team on June 21 at the same venue before taking on Egypt national football team in Seattle on June 26.

The arrangement highlights the unique logistical challenges associated with the expanded FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. Teams are expected to travel extensively across North America during the tournament, making base camp planning a critical component of preparations.

Sheinbaum said Mexican authorities continue to work closely with FIFA to finalise operational and security arrangements ahead of the competition.

The 2026 edition will be the first World Cup to feature 48 teams, expanding from the traditional 32-team format. With matches spread across three host nations, organisers face unprecedented logistical demands as they prepare for what is expected to be the largest World Cup in history.

Iran's relocation to Tijuana is one of the first major operational adjustments linked to the tournament, underlining the complex political and practical considerations surrounding the global event.

Iniyan Panneerselvam claims double gold at Commonwealth Chess Championship

NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam delivered a dominant performance at the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Sri Lanka, clinching gold medals in both the Rapid and Blitz categories to emerge as one of the tournament's biggest stars.

The Tamil Nadu player showcased remarkable consistency across both formats, scoring 6.5 points from seven rounds in each event to secure the top podium position. His double triumph highlighted India's continued strength in international chess and added another significant achievement to his growing list of accomplishments.

In the Rapid section, Iniyan finished ahead of fellow Indian Grandmaster Srihari L R, who secured the silver medal. Grandmaster Mitrabha Guha completed an Indian sweep of the podium by taking bronze.

The Blitz competition saw Iniyan maintain his impressive form. He once again topped the standings with 6.5 points, while Grandmaster Rohith Krishna S claimed the silver medal. Srihari added another medal to his tally by finishing third and securing bronze in the fast-paced format.

While Iniyan dominated the Rapid and Blitz events, the Classical title went to Mitrabha Guha, who produced a strong performance over the longer format of the game. Sri Lankan player Ranindu Liyanage finished second to claim the silver medal, while Srihari continued his impressive tournament by securing bronze.

The championship was held from May 16 to 26 and attracted a strong international field from across the Commonwealth. Players from India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malaysia, Singapore, Scotland and Canada participated in the event. A total of 96 players competed in the Open section, with contests held across Classical, Rapid and Blitz formats.

Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah reaches US Open

NEW DELHI

Indian-origin golfer Manav Shah has completed a remarkable journey from aspiring medical student to major championship competitor after securing a place in the 2026 US Open, one of golf's most prestigious tournaments.

The 34-year-old will make his debut at the US Open next month after producing an impressive performance in the demanding 36-hole final qualifying event at Dallas Athletic Club. Shah finished five-under-par overall to book his place in the championship, which will be held at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club from June 18.

Born in California to parents who emigrated from India in the 1980s, Shah grew up in a Gujarati family where medicine was viewed as the preferred profession. Like many in his extended family, he was expected to pursue a career in healthcare and initially enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a pre-med student.

However, his passion for golf eventually proved stronger than his interest in medicine.

"My extended family are in medicine. That was always the Gujarati line of work in our household," Shah said. "But I realised medicine probably wasn't going to be my thing when everyone after class went to the library and I was going to the golf course."

That decision led him onto a challenging professional path. Since turning professional in 2015, Shah has competed across various tours and qualifying events, steadily working toward the opportunity to play in one of golf's four major championships.

A key part of his development came through competing on the Asian circuit and in the Indian Golf Premier League, experiences that helped him reconnect with his cultural roots.

Shah said interacting with players from India and spending more time within Indian golfing circles strengthened his confidence and sense of identity. Although raised in the United States, he has maintained strong ties with India through regular visits to Gujarat and Mumbai, where his family originates.

"I've always been tied to the motherland," he said, describing India as a place that remains deeply important to him.

Looking ahead, Shah also voiced support for maintaining multiple pathways into professional golf amid ongoing debates surrounding the sport's structure and the divide between established tours and emerging circuits.

Spain WC squad named without Real Madrid players

MADRID

Spain have announced their 26-man squad for the FIFA World Cup 2026, with coach Luis de la Fuente naming a youthful but experienced group and, notably, excluding any players from Real Madrid for the first time in the tournament's history.

Teenage Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal has been included despite a hamstring injury, with the coach confident he will recover in time.

Veteran striker Álvaro Morata and midfielder Fermín López miss out due to fitness concerns.

Key players include Rodri, Pedri, Gavi, Dani Olmo, Nico Williams, Mikel Oyarzabal and goalkeeper Unai Simón.

Defensive absences such as Dani Carvajal and Dean Huijsen highlight the lack of Real Madrid representation.

Spain, ranked second in the world, are placed in Group H with Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

They begin their campaign on June 15 against Cape Verde in Atlanta. Spain aim to win a second World Cup title in 2026 again strongly.

Yashas P storms to historic 400m hurdles gold at Federation Cup

RANCHI

Karnataka hurdler Yashas P produced a career-defining performance at the National Athletics Federation Cup, clocking the second-fastest time ever by an Indian in the men's 400m hurdles to strengthen his case for selection to the Commonwealth Games squad.

The 24-year-old won gold on the final day of the competition with a stunning effort of 49.00 seconds, becoming the fastest active Indian in the event. Only national record holder Dharun Ayyasamy, who ran 48.80 seconds in 2019, has gone faster among Indian athletes.

Yashas' performance came just a day after he breached the Commonwealth Games qualification standard, underlining his excellent form heading into a crucial phase of the season. He edged long-time rival Santhosh Kumar T of Tamil Nadu, who claimed silver with a time of 49.06 seconds. Both athletes remain in contention for Commonwealth Games selection, pending approval from the Athletics Federation of India's selection committee.

The achievement is particularly noteworthy given that Yashas was overlooked for the Karnataka government's Target Olympic Podium programme, which provides selected athletes with annual financial support of ₹10 lakh through the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics cycle.

Karnataka enjoyed a productive final day overall. Distance runner Shivaji Parashuram bounced back impressively to win the men's 5000m gold medal in 14 minutes and 14.43 seconds. The victory came after a difficult start to the competition, where he fainted after the 10,000m race and was later disqualified for a lane infringement.

In the women's 400m hurdles, Karnataka's Sinchal Kaveramma secured silver with a time of 57.77 seconds behind national star Vithya Ramraj, who won gold in 56.61 seconds. However, both athletes fell short of the Commonwealth Games qualifying mark.

QUICK READ

SEBI explores DLT tokenisation for corp bond market

New Delhi

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has launched a pilot project to explore tokenisation of corporate bonds using distributed ledger technology (DLT), according to chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey. The initiative aims to test whether blockchain-based systems can improve liquidity, efficiency, and settlement speed in India's debt markets. SEBI said corporate bonds already trade on existing platforms, but DLT could enable near-instant settlement and better coordination among stakeholders. The regulator will assess operational and technological challenges before wider adoption. The Reserve Bank of India has issued draft guidelines, with final norms expected soon. SEBI and exchanges are preparing for implementation once regulatory clearance is granted. Pandey also noted AI-driven sectors are influencing global market valuations and valuation trends.

AI jobs apocalypse fears unlikely says Altman now

New Delhi

Sam Altman CEO of OpenAI said fears of an AI-driven jobs apocalypse have so far been overstated, speaking at a Commonwealth Bank of Australia conference in Sydney. He said entry-level white-collar job losses after ChatGPT in 2022 have been less severe than expected. He added that earlier predictions about social and economic disruption were wrong, even if AI progress has been roughly accurate. Companies including HSBC, Amazon, and Standard Chartered have noted AI is reshaping roles. He said human interaction remains essential in many jobs and cannot be fully replaced by machines, citing his Slack and email experiment. Altman emphasized careful optimism about AI's economic impact going forward in global markets.

DoT introduces QR login reforms under PM-WANI

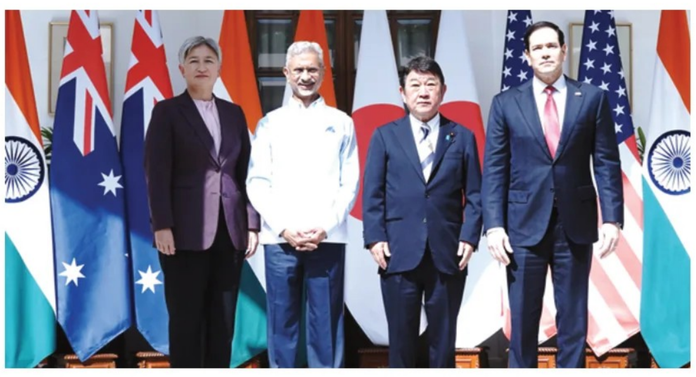
New Delhi

The Department of Telecommunications has introduced QR-based login reforms under the PM-WANI framework to expand public Wi-Fi access. The system enables QR authentication for secondary devices and offers short-duration plans of 15, 30, and 60 minutes. Hotspot naming has also been standardised to improve usability and trust. Officials said implementation will be completed within eight weeks. Under the guidance of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of State Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, the reforms aim to boost adoption of PM-WANI networks across transit hubs and public spaces. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vision for affordable digital connectivity nationwide digital inclusion goals achieved.

Quad nations expand indo-pacific trade, energy ties

Quad nations strengthened Indo-Pacific cooperation on trade, energy security, and maritime stability through new joint initiatives announced

NEW DELHI



The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue announced a series of new initiatives focused on trade, maritime cooperation and energy security, signaling a stronger push toward practical economic collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

The meeting was hosted by India in New Delhi as part of its current chairmanship of the grouping.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar joined US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the discussions.

The four-member grouping unveiled five major initiatives covering maritime surveillance, port infrastructure, regional maritime coordination, critical minerals and energy security. The announcements reflected the Quad's growing emphasis on operational cooperation and regional economic resilience.

Speaking at the meeting, Jaishankar said the Indo-Pacific region would play an increasingly vital role in global trade, maritime commerce and energy transportation in the coming years. He also underlined the importance of collective efforts against terrorism, stressing that democratic nations must adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward terror threats.

The leaders discussed the importance of strengthening supply chains and ensuring uninterrupted maritime routes amid rising geopolitical tensions and global energy concerns. Rubio described the Quad as a "partnership of action" focused on delivering practical outcomes instead of remaining only a discussion platform.

Penny Wong highlighted concerns over instability in West Asia and its potential impact on energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil transportation. Motegi reaffirmed the Quad's commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific amid shifting global dynamics.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has steadily expanded cooperation across trade, technology, infrastructure and maritime security as the Indo-Pacific gains greater strategic significance.

Techno Electric shares fall after weak profit decline

Techno Electric shares fall sharply after weak Q4 profit despite strong revenue growth, triggering cautious investor sentiment and market selling pressure

IN SHORT

- Techno Electric shares drop nearly 13% after Q4 results
- Profit declines 15% year-on-year in March quarter
- Revenue rises 23.8% despite fall in earnings
- Market reacts negatively to weak quarterly performance
- Stock partially recovers during intraday trading session

MUMBAI

Shares of Techno Electric and Engineering Company witnessed a sharp decline of nearly 13 per cent during intra-day trade on Tuesday after the company reported a fall in its fourth-quarter profits for FY26.

The stock fell as much as 12.8% on the BSE to an intra-day low of around ₹1,194 per share before recovering slightly later in the session. It was still trading about 11.8%t lower at ₹1,208.8 per share around mid-day.

The decline followed the company's financial results announced after market hours on Monday. Techno Electric and Engineering Company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹114.51 crore for the quarter ended March 2026. This represents a 15% drop compared to ₹134.64 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Despite the fall in profit, the company posted strong revenue growth. Revenue from operations rose 23.8% year-on-year to ₹1,010.04 crore, compared to ₹815.79 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Market participants reacted cautiously to the mixed set of numbers, with profit pressure outweighing revenue gains. The stock movement reflected investor concerns over margin pressure and earnings quality in the near term.

Techno Electric and Engineering Company is a well-established player in India's power infrastructure sector, operating across engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC), as well as asset ownership and operations.

The company has a long history in India's power sector, including involvement in major projects with NTPC Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. It has executed hundreds of projects in India and overseas over the years.

Despite its strong project execution track record, the latest quarterly performance has led to short-term pressure on its stock price as investors reassess earnings momentum and profitability trends.

Weak monsoon forecast for FY27 raises concerns over inflation, rural incomes, agricultural output, and overall demand recovery outlook

Weak monsoon forecast raises rural demand concerns

NEW DELHI

The upcoming monsoon outlook for FY27 is raising caution over India's rural economic recovery, with forecasts pointing to below-normal rainfall.

According to a report cited by investment platform smallcase, the India Meteorological Department has projected rainfall at around 92 per cent of the long-period average, signalling a weak monsoon season ahead.

A weaker monsoon could directly impact agricultural output and rural incomes, especially in regions dependent on rain-fed farming. Nearly 55 per cent of India's cultivated land relies on rainfall, making monsoon performance a critical driver of crop production, food supply chains, and rural consumption trends.

The report warned that erratic rainfall patterns could increase food inflation pressures, particularly for vegetables and essential commodities. Since food accounts for nearly 46 per cent of the Consumer Price Index basket, any supply disruption may quickly translate into broader inflationary stress across the economy.

The impact of rainfall variability is expected to be significant for key crops such as rice, pulses, sugarcane, soybean, and oilseeds. Delays or uneven distribution of rainfall during sowing periods could reduce productivity and affect farm incomes, further slowing rural demand recovery.

The report also highlighted that rising climate variability is making rainfall patterns less predictable, increasing risks for agriculture-dependent sectors. While total rainfall levels remain important, the timing and geographic distribution of monsoon showers are becoming even more crucial for economic stability.

On the macroeconomic front, higher food inflation could complicate the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy outlook, especially as markets expect gradual rate easing. Inflationary pressures could limit policy flexibility in the coming quarters.

Despite these concerns, agriculture still contributes around 15–16 per cent to India's GDP and supports nearly 45 per cent of the population. A good monsoon typically boosts rural demand, supports FMCG sales, strengthens tractor and two-wheeler markets, and improves earnings across rural-focused industries.

Eid rush surges across Kashmir markets

SRINAGAR

Markets across Srinagar and other towns of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an extraordinary festive rush as residents flocked to shops and markets ahead of Eid al-Adha celebrations.

From early morning, busy commercial hubs remained packed with shoppers purchasing food items, clothes, bakery products, toys, and sacrificial animals for the upcoming festival.

The heavy footfall in markets resulted in traffic congestion on several roads in Srinagar, with vehicles moving slowly through crowded areas. People carrying shopping bags and essential supplies were seen navigating through packed streets while vendors tried to manage the swelling crowds. Temporary roadside stalls and pavement shops added to the festive atmosphere, although they also reduced pedestrian space in many parts of the city.

Bakery shops, poultry outlets, butcher shops, and hosiery stores witnessed long queues throughout the day. Toy markets also attracted large numbers of children accompanying their parents for Eid shopping. Traders reported brisk business as families completed last-minute purchases before the festival.

Livestock markets remained among the busiest locations, with sheep and goats brought from regions such as Poonch and Rajouri, along with animals transported from Delhi and Rajasthan. Buyers carefully inspected animals before making purchases for traditional Eid sacrifices.

Authorities deployed market inspection teams to monitor prices and ensure the quality of food products being sold during the festive season. Officials said there was no shortage of essential commodities in the Valley and warned traders against overpricing goods during the increased demand.

Eid al-Adha, also known as Bakr Eid, is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as a symbol of sacrifice, devotion, and compassion.

India launches investor portal to boost semiconductor growth

NEW DELHI

The government has strengthened its semiconductor strategy under the India Semiconductor Mission by launching a new "Investors Support" portal aimed at improving transparency, coordination, and investor confidence in the sector.

According to the Ministry of Electronics & IT, the initiative comes under the broader Semicon India Programme, which has already approved 12 fabrication or packaging projects and 24 semiconductor design projects across India.

The new digital portal, accessible through the official ISM platform, provides investors with consolidated information on government schemes, policy frameworks, approved projects, and regulatory requirements. It is designed as a single-window system to streamline communication between investors and government authorities.

Officials said the platform will allow companies to register grievances or queries, which will be addressed through a structured coordination mechanism involving nodal officers from central ministries, state governments, and approved project partners. The system is expected to ensure time-bound resolution of investor concerns.

The ministry stated that the portal will act as a secure, role-based interface to simplify engagement between domestic and international investors and government agencies. It is intended to reduce procedural delays and improve clarity on approvals and compliance requirements.

Amitesh Kumar Sinha highlighted the importance of active facilitation and handholding of investors, particularly foreign companies, to build a strong semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem in India. He urged all stakeholders to play a proactive role in addressing investor issues.

The launch event included a detailed walkthrough of the portal's features, onboarding process, and coordination structure. It also outlined the responsibilities of nodal officers and participating organizations involved in project implementation and investor support. India's semiconductor push is part of a broader strategy to develop a resilient and sustainable electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The government has been promoting policy incentives and strategic partnerships to attract global chipmakers and strengthen domestic capabilities.

OIL RESERVE TIMING

South Korea weighs oil release amid supply risks

SEOUL

South Korea is carefully evaluating the timing of releasing crude oil from its strategic reserves amid growing concerns of a potential global supply crunch expected around August.

The move comes under an agreement among International Energy Agency member countries to stabilize oil markets following earlier geopolitical disruptions.

The country had earlier committed to releasing 22.46 million barrels of oil by June 9 as part of a coordinated plan involving 32 member nations of the International Energy Agency. The initiative was designed to cushion market shocks caused by tensions in the Middle East earlier in the year.

However, South Korean officials now say the release will be treated as a last-resort measure. Industry ministry representatives noted that while earlier concerns over supply disruptions have eased slightly, risks remain if shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz face prolonged instability.

Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry and Resources Security Yang Ghi-wuk said the government is closely monitoring global oil market conditions and will decide on the timing cautiously. He added that although oil inventories are tightening globally, South Korea has secured alternative supply sources to reduce immediate risk.

According to the industry ministry, about 85 per cent of South Korea's crude oil requirements for July have already been secured. The country has also diversified its import sources significantly, reducing reliance on the Middle East.

SYNOPSIS

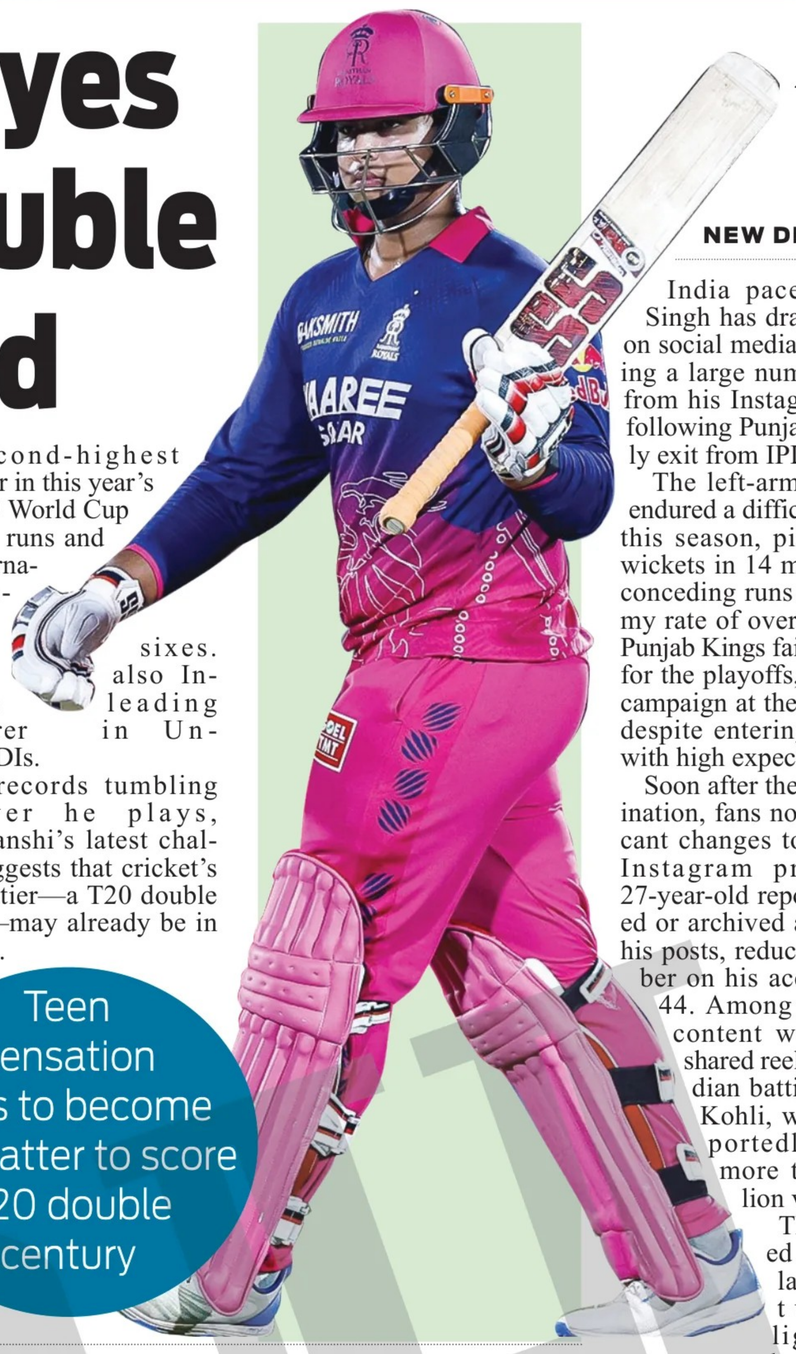
- *South Korea monitors oil*
- *Considers strategic release timing*
- *IEA warns supply risks*
- *Diversified crude imports rising*
- *Middle East tensions impact*

Data shows that oil imports from North and South America have increased substantially, along with higher shipments from Asia and Africa. This diversification is seen as a key factor supporting short-term supply stability.

Despite current stability, global agencies including the International Energy Agency have warned that oil inventories are depleting rapidly, raising the possibility of tighter markets later in the year. Some analysts caution that conditions could worsen if geopolitical tensions escalate again.

For now, South Korea maintains that it will align with international commitments while prioritizing domestic energy security and market stability.

Sooryavanshi eyes historic T20 double ton, Gayle record



Teen sensation aims to become first batter to score T20 double century

NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals' teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has set himself an ambitious target after a record-breaking IPL season, declaring his intention to become the first cricketer to score a double century in T20 cricket and surpass West Indies legend Chris Gayle's highest-ever T20 score of 175 not out.

The 15-year-old prodigy made the bold statement during an appearance on former England captain Kevin Pietersen's YouTube show The Switch. When asked about celebrating personal milestones such as half-centuries, Sooryavanshi made it clear that he has his sights set on much bigger achievements.

"I want to score 200 in T20s. I want to break Gayle's record," he said.

Gayle's unbeaten 175 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Pune Warriors India in IPL 2013 remains the highest individual score in T20 cricket. The explosive knock came off just 66 balls and included 13 fours and 17 sixes. His century in 30 balls is still the fastest in IPL history.

Sooryavanshi's confidence is backed by an extraordinary run of form. The left-hander has enjoyed a sensational IPL 2026 campaign, amassing 583 runs in 14 matches at an average of 41.64 and a remarkable strike rate of 232.27. His tally includes one century and three half-centuries, while his 53 sixes are the most by an Indian in a single IPL season.

The youngster has already shattered several age-related records. Last year, he became the youngest IPL player and later the youngest T20 centurion after smashing a 35-ball hundred against Gujarat Titans. He also holds the record for the fastest IPL century by an Indian.

Beyond the IPL, Sooryavanshi has dominated youth cricket. He finished as the second-highest run-scorer in this year's Under-19 World Cup with 439 runs and set a tournament record with 30 sixes. He is also India's leading run-scorer in Under-19 ODIs.

With records tumbling wherever he plays, Sooryavanshi's latest challenge suggests that cricket's next frontier—a T20 double century—may already be in his sights.

Arshdeep wipes Instagram posts after PBKS exit

NEW DELHI

India pacer Arshdeep Singh has drawn attention on social media after removing a large number of posts from his Instagram account following Punjab Kings' early exit from IPL 2026.

The left-arm fast bowler endured a difficult campaign this season, picking up 14 wickets in 14 matches while conceding runs at an economy rate of over 10 per over. Punjab Kings failed to qualify for the playoffs, ending their campaign at the league stage despite entering the season with high expectations.

Soon after the team's elimination, fans noticed significant changes to Arshdeep's Instagram profile. The 27-year-old reportedly deleted or archived a majority of his posts, reducing the number on his account to just 44. Among the missing content was a widely shared reel featuring Indian batting star Virat Kohli, which had reportedly garnered more than 15 million views.

The reel, posted in December last year, captured a light-hearted exchange between the two cricketers. Arshdeep had jokingly told Kohli that a larger target might have allowed him to score another century, to which the former India captain responded with a playful remark about the impact of dew conditions on bowlers.

The removal of the reel and several other posts has sparked speculation among fans, although neither Arshdeep nor his representatives have offered any explanation for the social media clean-up.

The development comes amid reports that stricter guidelines have been introduced regarding social media content involving Punjab Kings players. According to media reports, videos and promotional content featuring members of the squad may now need to be created and published exclusively through the franchise's official social media channels.

A team source was quoted as saying that players would be briefed about the new regulations and advised to comply with the guidelines issued by the BCCI. However, the source clarified that no individual player was being specifically targeted.

While the reason behind Arshdeep's Instagram activity remains unclear, the move has become a talking point among cricket followers during the IPL off-season. With India's international assignments approaching, the pacer will be hoping to put a challenging IPL campaign behind him and regain his best form on the field.

India pacer sparks speculation after deleting posts following disappointing season

Pacer says missing campaign was not entirely his personal choice

YASH DAYAL DISPUTES RCB EXPLANATION OVER ABSENCE FROM IPL 2026 SEASON

NEW DELHI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Yash Dayal has broken his silence on his absence from IPL 2026, stating that the decision to miss the season was not entirely his own and offering a different perspective from the one previously shared by the franchise.

Ahead of the tournament, RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat had said that Dayal would not be available for the defending champions due to a "personal situation." However, the left-arm pacer suggested that the circumstances surrounding his absence were more complex than that explanation indicated.

Dayal said he continues to feel strongly connected to the Bengaluru franchise despite not featuring this season.

"Obviously, when you are sitting outside and watching the matches on television, it is difficult. But it is still my team. They retained me and did not bring in a replacement, which shows they value me as an important part of the squad," Dayal said.

He then addressed the reason for his absence, saying the decision was not solely his own.

"The other thing is that my opting out of this season was not my personal decision. The decision is always made by the authority. I do not know what the exact reason behind RCB's decision was. I miss the team a lot," he said.

Despite not being part of the playing group this year, Dayal stressed that communication with the franchise remains intact. He revealed that he has been in regular contact with members of the management, including team mentor Dinesh Karthik, coaches and senior officials.

"There is no communication gap. Everything is clear and sorted. We stay in touch at intervals and the connection has not broken," he added.

Dayal's absence comes amid ongoing legal proceedings involving allegations against him. Authorities have registered separate cases, including one under provisions related to alleged sexual exploitation and another under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The cricketer has not publicly addressed the merits of the allegations, and the matters remain under investigation.

For now, Dayal remains on RCB's retained list, with the franchise yet to announce any change to his status. While he watches from the sidelines, the pacer has made it clear that he still considers himself an integral part of the Bengaluru setup and hopes to return to competitive cricket in the future.

Parag's airport remark leaves Sooryavanshi momentarily stunned

MULLANPUR

A light-hearted exchange involving Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag and teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has gone viral on social media ahead of the IPL 2026 Eliminator against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Rajasthan Royals secured the fourth and final playoff berth with an impressive 30-run victory over Mumbai Indians in their last league-stage match. Following the win, the team travelled from Mumbai to Mullanpur, where they are set to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in a high-stakes knockout clash on Wednesday.

Upon arriving at the airport, players were greeted by photographers and fans eager to catch a glimpse of the Royals squad. Much of the attention was focused on 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, whose remarkable performances this season have made him one of the most talked-about young cricketers in the tournament.

In a video that quickly gained traction online, photographers requested Parag and Sooryavanshi to pose together for pictures. However, the Royals skipper politely declined the request and responded with a humorous comment. "We aren't film stars," Parag said while walking away.

The remark appeared to catch Sooryavanshi off guard, with the teenager briefly displaying a puzzled expression before continuing to pose for photographs. The moment has since been widely shared across social media platforms, with fans amused by Parag's candid response and Sooryavanshi's reaction.

Despite the playful incident, Parag has been one of Sooryavanshi's strongest supporters within the Rajasthan Royals setup. The captain has consistently backed the young batter, who has emerged as one of the breakthrough stars of IPL 2026 with a series of explosive innings.

The Royals enter the Eliminator with momentum on their side after sealing qualification in dramatic fashion. Against Mumbai Indians, they posted a challenging 205 for eight before restricting their opponents to 175 for nine.

Wasim Jaffer backs captaincy change at MI after poor season

MUMBAI

Former India opener Wasim Jaffer has suggested that Hardik Pandya should not continue as captain of the Mumbai Indians next season, following the franchise's disappointing IPL 2026 campaign.

Mumbai Indians endured one of their worst seasons in recent memory, finishing ninth in the 10-team standings with just eight points. Their campaign ended with a 30-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals, marking their 10th loss in 14 league matches and triggering discussions about the team's leadership and direction.

Hardik, who returned to lead the five-time champions, also struggled individually. The all-rounder managed only 146 runs in eight innings and picked up just three wickets, failing to make the impact expected from one of India's premier cricketers.

Jaffer said Mumbai Indians should retain Hardik as a key player but allow him to focus solely on his cricket rather than the added responsibility of captaincy.

"I will not make him the captain, but he will surely be retained. I want him to open up and get the best out of him," Jaffer said.

The former batter, however, admitted that identifying a replacement captain would not be straightforward. "At this stage, it would be hard to pick a captain," he added.

Despite the criticism, Mumbai Indians' batting coach Kieron Pollard defended Hardik after the team's early exit, insisting that the season's failure should not be placed solely on the skipper's shoulders.

"From a leadership perspective on Hardik, yes, it has not gone as well as he would have wanted as an individual. It might not have gone how we would have wanted as a management staff," Pollard said after the final league match.

He stressed that Mumbai's disappointing campaign was the result of collective shortcomings rather than individual mistakes.

"No one is going to sit here and point fingers. When you lose, you have to look at it from a collective perspective," Pollard added. While Mumbai Indians are yet to make any decisions regarding leadership for IPL 2027, Jaffer's remarks are likely to fuel debate over whether a change at the top could help the franchise bounce back after a forgettable season.

ASHWIN'S WARNING ON SPLIT HOME VENUES RETURNS AFTER PUNJAB KINGS COLLAPSE

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings' failure to qualify for the IPL 2026 playoffs despite a dominant start to the season has revived debate over the franchise's decision to split its home matches between two venues, a strategy former captain Ravichandran Ashwin had previously criticised.

Punjab appeared destined for a top-four finish after winning six of their first seven matches and spending 22 days at the top of the points table. However, a dramatic collapse saw the team lose six consecutive matches, ultimately finishing fifth with 15 points and extending its long wait for a playoff appearance.

The disappointing end to the campaign has prompted renewed scrutiny of the franchise's decision to host matches at both Mullanpur and Dharamsala. While the move is often seen as a way to broaden a team's commercial reach and engage supporters in different regions, Ashwin had warned earlier in the season that changing home venues could disrupt a team's rhythm and ability to adapt to playing conditions.

Punjab enjoyed considerable success at their primary home ground in Mullanpur, winning three of their first four matches there. Their only defeat at the venue came against Rajasthan Royals in late April. In contrast, the team struggled badly in Dharamsala, losing all three matches played at the picturesque hill venue. Ashwin argued that the differing pitch characteristics required significant adjustments from players who had become comfortable with conditions in Mullanpur.

"Punjab are not playing in Mullanpur; they are playing in Dharamsala, where the wicket is not that good to bat first on. The ball stays a little low in the first half, so it will take time for them to adapt," Ashwin had said during the season.

He also noted that changing venues could affect batting output, with players often needing time to understand new conditions.

The former Punjab skipper rejected the suggestion that the team's slump was simply another example of the franchise faltering under pressure. Instead, he pointed to the challenges created by moving away from their established base during a crucial stage of the tournament.

While several IPL franchises remain committed to a single home venue, others continue to divide matches across locations to expand their fan base and commercial footprint.

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